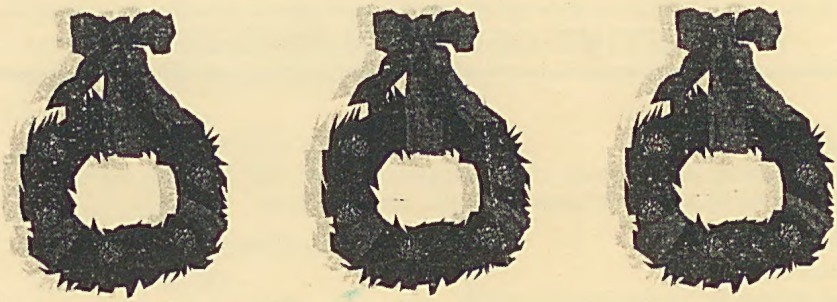
ASL

Australian Society for Limnology Inc.

NEWSLETTER



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AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC.

The Australian Society for Limnology (ASL) is an Australian-based scientific society whose focus is the study and management of inland waters. The ASL was established in 1961, and has a current membership of over 650 researchers, managers, engineers, teachers and tertiary level students from all states and territories. Members have a strong professional interest in inland aquatic issues, including the maintenance of biodiversity, the maintenance and/or restoration of water quality, and the wise use of aquatic resources. The Society also has a strong interest in fostering the scientific and intellectual development of tertiary students.

The Society includes members working in government agencies, tertiary institutions and many industries related to aquatic resources. Through their daily activities, members have contact with local communities and are in a sound position to interpret and advise on inland water issues. The Society has a substantial knowledge base, and has assumed a responsibility to ensure that this is available to those who manage inland waters.

Accordingly, the charter of the ASL is to further our understanding of Australia's inland waters and to promote their wise use and sustainable management. In this manner we will contribute to the continued existence of this valued resource and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of life for all Australians.

The ASL regularly produces a newsletter with notes on limnological activities, articles of interest, book reviews and announcements of upcoming events likely to be of interest to Members.

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Material for publication in the **Volume 41 # 1 Issue** of the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor (Address on back page) by **Friday 28th February 2003.**

Volume 41 # 2 contributions are due **Friday 27th June 2003.**

All articles should be forwarded, if possible, as unformatted text on a disk or via email.

ASL Home Page - http://www.asl.org.au/

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Membership Information and a contact details of the new Regional Executive Members can be found at the back of this Newsletter.

FROM THE EDITOR

IYFW

ASL members, get used to this acronym as you,ll be seeing it a lot in 2003, as 2003 is **The International Year of Freshwater** (i.e. if there,s any water around in the new year!!).

This bumper Christmas edition of your newsletter includes 15 stories from the regions, book and seminar reviews, an entertaining insight into how New Zealanders run their Congresses, the reports received by the Executive for the ASL Early Career Excellence Award and the ASL Medal, the nominees for the 2002 Door Prize (always a good read and a good laugh), Accounts and Auditors Reports, minutes of the 2002 AGM etc etc.

So forget about the drought and dust, grab a cold drink and enjoy! Have an enjoyable holiday, see you in IYFW.

Cheers

Rhonda Sinclair
Rhonda.Sinclair@csiro.au

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First, many thanks to Jane for her direction, humour, and wisdom as ASL President over the last couple of years and a warm welcome to the new members of the Executive and our new Vice-President, Sabine Schreiber. There are also some members of the original Exec who are prepared to continue as State Reps for which we are grateful and of course, the stalwarts of the Society, Richard and Margaret will keep us on track with their many years of ‚corporate memory„ Communication is central to the success of ASL and Simon has agreed to continue as web-master while Rhonda will edit the crucial Newsletter. Let me reiterate the constant plea of all newsletter editors - we need you and your input for our newsletter to work. While the State reps will coordinate the ‚scuttlebutt„ that you contribute, please feel free to send Rhonda any other information you think would be of interest to our members fi conferences you have attended, upcoming events, good deals on limno equipment, job opportunities, etc.

We had an Exec teleconference meeting in November to address some of the issues raised at the AGM (see Richard‚s minutes on pages 20 and 21). Although it was a longer meeting than usual, it provided a good chance to discuss some of the issues in detail. Main thing to think about was the potential cost savings of receiving the newsletter electronically rather than paper, and we suggested that for those members who really liked the hardcopy (and I am one of the dinosaurs), an extra $10 per year could be sought from them to cover postage etc. ASL is also continuing to forge links with other groups working on water issues and Sabine represented ASL at a meeting of the potential Australian chapter of the Global Water Partnership (see Sabine‚s notes elsewhere in the newsletter, on page 46). We thank Frederick Bouckart for being our ASL representative at the FASTS meeting in Canberra on 14th November (see his report, on page 66) and he emphasizes the importance of us being proactive with FASTS to ensure our science is heard and used. The idea of a ‡State of Science and Education in Australia· report that is regularly updated is a valuable one and perhaps we could use the newsletter or listserver to discuss this in more detail. Similarly, there is a suggestion that FASTS issues might be a relevant topic for a session at the conference or at least an item at the next AGM. I was too slow off the mark organizing SmP aspects for ASL this year but intend to be far better prepared next year. If there are issues that you wish to raise, rather than waiting until the next AGM, contact your State reps, Sabine or myself and we can start the ball rolling.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas break, continue to support our Society and to encourage our new members to feel welcome, and brace yourself for a great meeting in Warrnambool in December 2003.

Andrew Boulton

MINUTES OF THE 41ST AGM OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY, HELD ON 2 OCTOBER 2002, AT MARGARET RIVER WA

(p = proposed, s = seconded)

1. **Adoption of Agenda:** carried (p = R. Marchant, s = J. Chamber)

2. **Apologies:** P. McEvoy, D. Nias, A. Boulton, R. Sinclair

3. **Acceptance of last minutes:** carried (p = A. Pinder, s = G. Dunkerley); no matters arising.

4. **President,s Report:** J. Chambers presented her report:

It has been very rewarding to serve as President for ASL this past two years. ASL continues to grow in both numbers and outlook. Our obligation to fulfil our charter to promote the wise use and sustainable management of Australian inland waters has seen an increased advocacy by ASL through:

1. Government submissions fi the latest of these being the letter to Government regarding water allocation in the Murray Darling Basin. This was coordinated by Terry Hillman who reports:

The SA, Vic, Qld governments thanked us for our interest but took it no further. The Commonwealth Minister, Dr Kemp, was very gracious, thanked us for our input and suggested that he would welcome a visit from ASL to discuss this or other related issues. The NSW Minister passed the enquiry to the Director of Inland Waters (David Harriss) to pursue. He expressed gratitude for ASL's input and undertook to investigate the concept of a water bank further. He also explicitly invited ASL to comment on other water resource issues in the future, citing the proposal to pipe water to Darling Anabranch users (saving 40-50 GL per year) as an example where the Society's opinion would be valued in providing an objective, scientific opinion.

2. Policy documents fi the rate of production of these is slowing and perhaps the new Executive would like to revisit our strategy in producing these documents. We have salinity and representative reserves policy documents currently being developed.

3. Promoting links with other stakeholders in wetland management (Wetland Care, WWF, SWS, L&W) and, most importantly, the improvement of communication between these groups as begun in the Wetland Forums in Darwin and Moama.

But as President I must say that there has also been an occasional sense of frustration. I have been fortunate to work with an innovative, motivated and committed Executive. Many of them extending themselves way beyond the call of duty in their commitment to ASL and Australian wetlands. And in fear of omitting someone,s name, I would like to particularly thank Pierre Horwitz, Abbie Spiers, Megan McGuire, Deb Nias and Michael Shirley. There are simply not enough hours in the day to allow ASL to function at its potential. We have come to a threshold.

To maintain our momentum and properly fulfil our charter we need a devoted secretariat, backed by clear guidelines and protocols to enable them to act effectively in ASL,s best interests. I know this is not a new idea, but funding the salary has always been a barrier. So the Exec is currently seeking funds to establish such a position. It is a clear indication of our progress and success that we need this person. Suggestions for funding sources are welcomed.

The instigation of the secretariat is not based simply on increased environmental advocacy by ASL. We are a scientific society. The first part of our charter is to further our understanding of Australia's inland waters. Our strength is in our knowledge, understanding and scientific investigation of inland waters, this is what we, as opposed to other groups, uniquely provide to Australia. We need to maintain our priority to foster high quality research, support our members in this endeavour and seek opportunities to influence science funding (this latter is a role the secretariat might take up). In the last two years we have seen the start of the Queensland pub night that joins the Vic, NSW and Tas, we have instigated the Early Career Excellence Award, are finalising an international travel award for students commemorating Bill Williams and we have our excellent newsletter, website and listserver that allows us to keep in touch (thanks to Rhonda Sinclair, our newsletter editor and Simon Josey, our website manager). We are looking to increase our links with other scientific societies (NABS, SIL, SWS etc, remember our joint congress with our NZ colleagues in Warrnambool next year).

ASL has achieved our current strength through the activity, enthusiasm and motivation of its members, not just the Exec but people on policy committees, volunteers at congresses and all manner of roles. We can all contribute, and I encourage you to do so. All the best to the new Executive!

5. **Secretary,s Report:** One teleconference was held during the year (14 March 2002); the minutes were published in the newsletter. Much of the executive,s business was conducted by email and did not require teleconferences or face to face meetings to complete. The donation last year from the SIL 2001 congress has been placed on term deposit and the intention is to use this money to support students giving papers at international limnological conferences. The new executive will draw up rules for the award of this support.

6. **Treasurer,s Report:** M. Hart reported that current membership (at 30 Sept 2002) was 587 made up of: 419 ordinary, 95 student, 19 institutional, 24 life, 28 10 year, and 2 life members. She also presented the balance sheet and profit and loss statement (both attached). The main item to note was the net surplus which, when the SIL donation was removed, was only $5768. Thus the society is spending essentially all its income and M. Hart proposed (R. Marchant seconded) that fees should increase to give more flexibility. She proposed that the new fees (from 1 July 2003) should be: $50 for ordinary members, $25 for student members, $55 for institutional members and $450 for life members. This motion was passed unanimously. M. Hart also noted that most members (505) took the newsletter in hard copy and only 82 took it electronically. She suggested that more members should be encouraged to subscribe to the electronic version as this would save on postage. It was proposed (p = B.Hart, s = J.Davis) that the new executive should investigate this matter. The treasurer,s report was accepted (p = J.Chambers, s = R.Marchant).

7. **Honorarium for Treasurer:** R. Marchant proposed (s = J. Davis) a $2000 honorarium be paid to the Treasurer. This was passed and it was suggested that the new executive should also consider honoraria for the newsletter editor and web master.

8. **Auditor,s Report::** This is attached.

9. **Newsletter Editor,s Report:** Four editions of the ASL Newsletter have been compiled and edited since the last AGM (30 September 2001):

Volume 39 # 4 (December 2001); Volume 40 # 1 (March 2002); Volume 40 # 2 (June 2002), and Volume 40 # 3 (September 2002)

The number of members requesting the newsletter to be sent to them electronically in either Rich Text Format or Portable Document Format continues to grow, however, members should be aware of their systems capability to receive the newsletter, far too often the recipients don,t receive their newsletters because it has bounced back to me, due to the ,size exceeding the fixed limit or the storage allocation,,

The ‡Scuttlebutt, Rumour and Prattle· section of the newsletter has declined considerably over the past 12 months fi I believe this is an important component of our newsletter, and implore the new Regional Executive Members to try to get some articles from institutions in their states to submit articles. I send out a ‡gentle· reminder email on the ASL list-server about 2 weeks prior to copy deadline, but the response has been slow. So members, send in a few paragraphs, people are interested in what you,re doing, and yes, we,re all busy!!

10. **Early Career Excellence Award Report:** This is the first such award and is designed to encourage young limnologists, and was awarded to Dr Justin Brookes.

11. **ASL Medal Committee:** The medal was awarded in 2002 to Dr Brian Timms.

12. **Student Travel Award Committee:** Four students were each awarded $400 to enable them to attend the congress in Margaret River and present their research. The students were: A. Danger, T. Paradise, H. Robertson and C. Kellar.

13. **Door Prize Committee Report:** T. Doeg, Convenor of the Door Prize Collective, noted that this was the 18th anniversary of the Door Prize award. While there were numerous worthy nominations, the Door Prize was eventually awarded to the out-going ASL President Jane Chambers for her contribution to trans-gender carp research, and her vain attempt to restore the balance to the daughterless carp program by re-assigning Patrick Driver as a Patricia during the Student Award presentations at the Annual Dinner. A full text of the Door Prize report is printed elsewhere in the Newsletter.

14. **42nd Congress:** B. Robson spoke briefly about this meeting to be held in Warrnambool, VIC, on 1-5 Dec 2003. Some details are already on the ASL web site and more will be forthcoming. This congress will be held jointly with the NZ Limnological Society.

15. **Future Congresses:** Both South Australia and Tasmania were suggested as possible venues.

16. **Election of Executive:**
Andrew Boulton - President (p = R.Marchant, s = J.Chambers)
Sabine Schreiber - Vice President (p = T.Doeg, s = K.Trayler)
Richard Marchant - Secretary (p = J.Chambers, s = M.Hart)
Margaret Hart - Treasurer/Membership officer (p = R.Marchant, s = J.Chambers)
Rhonda Sinclair - Newsletter Editor
Simon Josey - Webmaster
Regions:

SA	Paul McEvoy (p = R. Marchant, s = J. Chambers)
Vic	Simon Treadwell (p = M. Shirley, s = B. Gawne)
NSW	Ivor Growns (p = R. Marchant, s = G. Dunkerley)
ACT	Fred Bouckaert (p = M. McGuire, s = M. Hart)
Qld	Jon Marshall (p = R. Marchant, s = J. Chambers)
WA	Megan McGuire (p = J. Davis, s = J. Chambers)
NT	Naomi Rea (p = S. Townsend, s = T. Rose)
Tas	John Gooderham (p = R. Marchant, s = J. Chambers)

All nominees were elected unopposed.

17. **Student Award Committee Report:** The following prizes were awarded: best oral presentation by a PhD /MSc student fi Ayesha Burdett (honourable mentions to Patrick Driver and Lisa Evans); best oral presentation by an Honours student fi Leanne Hartley; best Poster fi John Bunn (honourable mentions to Liz Fields and Juan Chen); best MWWG Poster fiStephen Beatty (honourable mention to Juan Chen).

18. **Election of the Auditor:** Coster Galgut Pty Ltd was re-elected (p = M. Hart, s = R. Marchant).

19. **General Business:**

(a) Change to dates of financial year fi R. Marchant foreshadowed in the September newsletter that the dates of the society,s financial year needed to change from (currently) 1 January - 31 December to 1 July fi 30 June. This would enable the society to comply with the requirement of Consumer and Business Affairs, Vic, that an AGM be held within 5 months of the end of the financial year of an incorporated association. At present congresses are held in the second half of the year and thus the ASL cannot comply with this requirement. The motion was put to the AGM by R. Marchant (s = J. Chambers) that ‡the financial year of the society shall cover the period 1 July in any year to 30 June of the following year·. This was carried unanimously.

(b) It was suggested that the ASL nominate Cooper Creek for World Heritage Listing. After some discussion it was decided to let the new executive deal with this.

(c) Jenny Davis proposed on behalf of A. Boulton, the new President (s = R. Marchant), a vote of thanks to Jane Chambers for her work as President. This was passed by acclamation.

(d) J. Chambers thanked Mark Lund, Megan McGuire, Kerry Trayler, Adrian Pinder, Carolyn Oldham and Brad Pusey for organising a splendid congress.

Many thanks to Di Crowther for sending in these images of the 2002 ASL Congress Dinner at The Leeuwin Estate, Margaret River.

Count the number of wine bottles on those tables!!

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC

REG NO A20309K ABN 54 606 483 226

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

	2001	2000
INCOME		
Bank Interest	$2,305	$2,637
Conference Surplus	-	14,195
Conference Receipts	60,041	-
Donation	35,000	-
Wetland Forum	1,320	-
Subscriptions - Full Members	15,050	16,067
- Students	1,558	1,440
- Institutions	369	1,469
-10 Year	1,745	700
Sundry Income	50	25
TOTAL INCOME	$117,438	$36,533
EXPENSES		
Audit & Accounting Fees	1,111	770
ASL Medal	-	722
Bank Charges	2,183	742
Conference		
- Student Travel Award	1,250	1,500
- Student Prize	50	300
- Venue, Travel, etc	50,075	-
Depreciation	1,300	295
FASTS - Subscriptions & Meetings	818	2,695
Honoraria - Treasurer & IT Advisor	1,500	2,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	52	320
Newsletter	9,695	8,132
Special Publications / Brochures	1,045	520
Stationery, Printing, Postage, etc	1,262	817
Telephone	1,231	1,545
Qld / Vic Chapter	100	120
Wetland Forum	2,770	-
Workshop Contributions	-	2,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	$74,442	$22,478
NET SURPLUS FOR YEAR	$42,996	$14,054
RETAINED SURPLUS AT START OF YEAR	67,882	53,828
RETAINED SURPLUS AT END OF YEAR	$110,878	$67,882

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC

REG NO A20309K ABN 54 606 483 226

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001

	2001	2000
SOCIETY FUNDS		
Retained Surplus	$110,878	$67,882
Represented by:		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Nat Aust Bank – Cheque Account	28,566	7,559
Nat Aust Bank – Deposit at Call	34,914	33,333
Nat Aust Bank – Deposit at Call	10,192	14,807
Nat Aust Bank – Deposit at Call	35,000	-
Deposit – Conference 2001	-	500
Accrued Income – 2000 Conference	-	13,935
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	108,672	70,134
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Office Equipment – at Cost	8,716	5,653
Less Provision for Depreciation	6,510	5,210
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2,206	443
TOTAL ASSETS	$110,878	$70,577
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditor – FASTS	-	2,695
NET ASSETS	$110,878	$67,882

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

Whilst the accounts have been prepared on a cash accounting basis accrual adjustments have been made for subscriptions payable to FASTS, conference surplus receivable and a deposit paid for 2001 conference.

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY INC

DEPRECIATION SCHEDULE FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

	Acquired	Cost	O.W.D.V.	Rate	Deprec	C.W.D.V.
		$	$	%	$	$
Computer	Oct-95	3,290.00	230.26	40%	92.10	138.16
Printer	Oct-95	1,995.00	139.54	40%	55.82	83.72
Modem	Mar-97	368.00	73.22	40%	29.29	43.93
Computer	Feb-01	3,063.00	3,063.00	40%	1,123.10	1,939.90
		8,716.00	3,506.02		1,300.31	2,205.71

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY

REG No. A20309K ABN 54 606 483 226

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of the Australian Society for Limnology Inc. as at 31 December 2001 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Australian Society for Limnology Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Jane Chambers ..... **Margaret Hart**
President **Treasurer**
September 2002

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AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY FOR LIMNOLOGY

We have audited the financial report, being a special purpose financial report comprising the Statement by Members of the Committee, Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet of the Australian Society for Limnology for the year ended 31 December 2001. The committee is responsible for the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies used are appropriate to meet the needs of the Associations Incorporation Act Victoria and the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of this financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of the Incorporation Associations Act Victoria. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures include examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material aspects, the financial report is presented fairly. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Australian Society for Limnology Inc. as at 31 December 2001 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

COSTER GALGUT PTY LTD ABN 66 005 054 866

LINDSAY C COSTER FCA *SEPTEMBER 2002*
Chartered Accountant
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Report by the ASL Early Career Excellence Award Subcommittee to the ASL Executive, August 2002

Re: Dr Justin Brookes

The ASL Early Career Excellence Award Subcommittee was unanimous in its support of this nomination, and agreed that the achievements during Dr Justin Brookes' early career comprise substantial and tangible contributions to Australian and international limnology, both theoretical and applied.

The recipient graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1998 with a PhD in aquatic botany, and his thesis was given special commendation as 'outstanding' by an international examiner. From his thesis and research in the intervening four years, some 22 scientific papers have resulted, published in international and national refereed journals. Rather than list all these, it is useful to give several examples that show successful integration of pure and applied limnology.

One direction of the recipient's work has been a technological breakthough using gas vacuole structure to provide a novel method for separating two common freshwater blue-green algae. Subsequent use of this method has accelerated our understanding of how nitrogen, phosphorus and light influence the buoyancy response of *Microcystis aeruginosa*, a common cyanobacterium implicated in blue-green algal blooms in reservoirs. The recipient has also developed models to assess the influence of mixing frequency, depth and intensity on the trajectory of buoyant *Microcystis* colonies, and this has proved a useful tool in blue-green algal management. As a result of this and other work, the recipient was recently appointed to the CRC for Water Quality and Treatment as the resident expert in reservoir management, integrating engineering solutions with ecological insights.

Another research direction with pure and applied benefits has challenged traditional ideas and conceptions about the trophic status of the Lower Murray, again with significant management implications. Field studies by the recipient indicate that far from being eutrophic as often considered, the Lower Murray is actually nutrient-poor and nitrogen, rather than phosphorus, is likely to be the limiting nutrient.

Communication of good science is essential, and is one of the key criteria used by the Award subcommittee. The recipient of this year's Award is a gifted communicator, having received several Honourable Mentions for talks given at previous ASL meetings. He has shared his expertise with members of the general community as well as managers and scientists, presenting some 20 talks (often invited addresses) at national and international workshops. He is frequently called in as an expert to advise on issues associated with blue-green algal management or more local matters such as the environmental implications of the closure or restriction of flow at the mouth of the Murray. Although early in his career, he currently acts as mentor and co-supervisor of 4 PhD students and has a reputation for being professional and selfless in supervising and helping Honours and other students.

Given these already impressive achievements at such an early stage in his career, and keen, on behalf of ASL, to foster and encourage this early career excellence, the subcommittee recommends the Award in 2002 goes to **Dr Justin Brookes**.

Acceptance Letter from Justin Brookes to ASL

23 September 2002

Dr Jane Chambers
President, The Australian Society for Limnology

Dear Jane, ASL Executive and members,

It is with great pleasure that I accept the ASL Early Career Excellence Award.

ASL has always encouraged early career scientists by providing the arena for young scientists to be nurtured, stimulated and challenged. The members of ASL have contributed enormously to my education and broadened my perspective on aquatic ecology and water related issues. Reflecting on my undergraduate studies I recall attending lectures by Ganf, Walker, Boulton, Sheldon, Geddes and the late, great Bill Williams. How could I graduate and not be enthused about aquatic ecology?

Since then I have been fortunate to work with some excellent researchers, including my students, on limnology issues in Australia and overseas. I am particularly indebted to George Ganf and Mike Burch who have provided me with numerous opportunities to work, publish and travel. George continues to mentor and challenge me and the little snippets of insight he imparts, while drawing hard on a cigarette, often prove invaluable.

I am honoured to be awarded the inaugural ASL Early Careers Excellence Award. To receive an award from peers, colleagues and friends is particularly gratifying.

Enjoy the congress at Margaret River and I look forward to seeing you at next years ASL.

Best regards and Thankyou,

Justin Brookes

Report by the ASL Medal Subcommittee to the ASL Executive June 2002

Re: Dr Brian Timms

Brian Timms is well known to Australian limnologists for his wide-ranging work over 35 years on the benthos of fresh and saline lakes along the eastern seaboard from Tasmania to North Queensland and for his studies of crustacean taxonomy and zooplankton. Few Australian limnologists have made a more broadly based contribution encompassing comparative limnology (both physico-chemical and faunal), plankton ecology, micro- and macroinvertebrate taxonomy/systematics, benthic ecology and wetland ecology and conservation across a diverse range of freshwater & saline, lacustrine & riverine habitats.

Brian has made major contributions to all the above fields and in doing so has played a significant role in the development and high standing of Australian limnology. In the last decade or so he has concentrated his efforts on ephemeral waterbodies in arid Australia, but has also made significant contributions to knowledge of benthic communities in NZ lakes and saline lakes in Alberta, Canada, and has written a textbook on lake geomorphology. He has achieved both national and international recognition for his limnological research and is widely published (and cited) in both arenas. Colleagues unanimously attest to his approachability, enthusiasm, and readiness to collaborate.

Australian limnology encompasses a diverse range of aquatic systems over vast distances. Long-term studies in remote areas and harsh environments such as the arid-zone are problematical to put it mildly. Great distances, extreme temperatures, high flood - it takes true dedication to intensively study these unique habitats. For the last 15 years Brian has devoted himself to the Paroo region in northern NSW. He has obtained what many would regard as the finest set of data on temporary freshwater habitats in Australia and more than likely one of the best from anywhere in the world for such arid-zone habitats. Such contributions often go unrecognised because the great difficulties (both scientific and logistic) of studying such ephemeral ecosystems over meaningful periods are not widely appreciated. Much of his work has been carried out with little institutional or grant support and often single handedly. It is thus all the more praiseworthy.

The awarding of the ASL medal to **Brian Timms** is a fitting acknowledgement of his unique and pioneering scientific work. The ASL Medal Subcommittee is unreserved in its support of this nomination.

DOOR PRIZE REPORT (MARGARET RIVER 2002)

I„d like to take you back for a minute to 1985. How things have changed in ASL since then. The newsletter was only 24 pages long and the equivalent of Scuttlebutt was 1 pages long. But some things don„t change quite that quickly. Margaret Hart was Membership Officer, the committee was elected unopposed, there were no additions to the ASL bibliography, and the President was contemplating structural change to the ASL to make us more relevant and effective.

But 1985 was a significant year in the history of ASL. Buried in the minutes of the Annual General Meeting from the Mt. Gambier conference was the following item:

> *R. Marchant as Chairperson of a large and fortunately anonomous* [sic] *committee awarded an unwanted oven door to P. DeDekker for the most unorthodox and bizarre talk of the congress. The recipient of this new award is expected to bring the prize to the next congress and organise for the presentation of the 1985* [sic] *award.*

A new award! And so the Door Prize was born. And it has survived until now (better than the door, which apparently has been made an integral part of a South Australian land fill). So welcome to the 18th annual award of the Door Prize.

For those of you who have been living under a rock for the past 18 years, the Door Prize is awarded at each ASL Congress to the person, thing, species, event or act that makes the Congress memorable into the future (in fact, the constitution of the Door Prize Collective fi still large, but now anonymous fi states that the assessment criteria is entirely at the discretion of the collective). No one will remember any of the talks at Jenolan Caves, but who can forget the Line Dancers, who remembers talks from Rottnest Island, but the memory of Rob Dupres being woken up with a face full of partially treated sewage seems to last much longer.

Simply getting drunk and falling over is not adequate to take away the prize, otherwise the list of nominations would be far too long to print here. Getting drunk and falling out of a tree is better, but still doesn„t rate winning (sorry **Tricia Paradise**, better luck next time).

But we do have some commendable nominations for the Door Prize for 2002.

- The challengers began early. The **Bus Driver** who took ASL delegates from Perth airport at 10:00 on the first day almost won the prize before the Congress had even begun. Our tour guide pointed out local attractions, such as ‡÷ and beyond that ugly swamp, there„s a 5fistar hotel being constructed· and ‡. the Harvey-Peel estuary diversion worked so well that even the critics are trying to buy land here··. But by forgetting to turn his microphone off between such comments, we were treated to a heated row with his wife (the co-driver) over which route was quickest, and some valuable insights into the driving ability of Chinese women.
- A group nomination was made to every-one at the conference who didn„t finish their talk in the allotted 15 minutes. But particular mention must go to **Stefan Eberhard** who, at 19 minutes and 45 seconds suggested ‡÷ and now to the biology.·
- A new CRC Freshwater Ecology sub-program was born at the Congress. The ‡16 Drinks for 16 Subcatchments· program, developed out of the Urban Stream sub-program, got off to a good start, but faltered early, with most of the group not getting past Stringybark Creek (Subcatchment 8). Program leader **Chris Walsh** was last seen somewhere around Woori Yallock Creek (Subcatchment 13), heading boldly, although somewhat weavingly, for Perrins Creek at the head of the catchment.

- The **Congress organisers** got their traditional nomination. Firstly for the concept of Perfect Binding. This new way of binding Congress Abstracts is revolutionary, as it falls apart at the same rate that talks are delivered. Once a paper is presented, the appropriate page in the abstracts promptly falls out. But the organisers were also nominated for announcing, without explanation, a ‡Fork ‚n„ Walk· dinner. As far as I know, a Fork ‚n„ Walk is a bizarre adult drinking game known only in remote areas of the south island of New Zealand.
- And on the Fork ‚n„ Walk, someone should tell the **Caterers** not to serve a chick pea curry to a bunch of people who will be sitting together in a crowded room for most of the day. If you thought that the warm air in Room A on Day 2 was because they had turned the heaters up ÷ ..
- The Collective was glad to see that overseas work by little known foreign limnologists was well represented at the Congress. Particularly the Kazakstan work of Borat and G (1998, 1999 and 2001), noted by **Janet Pritchard**, **Kerri Muller** and **Darren Baldwin**. Apparently, these were papers that Barry Hart had never heard of.
- Not that it will do him any good, as he was prematurely killed off by **Ian Rutherfurd** who was not only nominated for the most tactful comment, but also for the most tortured metaphor, involving gatekeepers, the Klondike and mining for data.
- **Kerry Trayler** managed to keep her audience in suspense for the last five minutes of her talk by apparently delivering it without taking a single breath.
- **Ivor Growns** was nominated (as he usually is) for services to statistics, particularly for post-significance testing, as in ‡÷ . This relationship is statistically significant, but I don‚t believe it.·
- And **Angus Webb** was nominated for his talk on ‡long lived faeces· (apparently a contraction of the term ‡fish species· that should now be adopted by all bug biologists out there).

But there can only ever be one winner of the Door Prize each year. Until the Annual Dinner, held on the last night of the Congress, there was no clear winner this year. As admirable as the above nominations are, they will pass from memory at the same rate that the Abstracts will slowly disintegrate. No clear winner, until ÷ ÷

An out-going President is usually remembered for their last act in office. Who will forget Richard Nixon and his resignation speech, who will forget Bill Clinton pardoning all those crooked friends just before he moved out of the White House (oh, and that Monica thing), who will forget JFK ÷ . no, don‚t go there ÷ .

The last act of an ASL President is often to award the Student Prize at the annual Dinner. A glittering occasion, where students are honoured for their presentations. Win one of these prizes and every-one will know your name. Patrick Driver is a student at the University of Canberra, working on Carp impacts in freshwater ecosystems, and *he* won a Student Prize for *his* talk. In front of the whole ASL audience, the out-going ASL President, Jane Chambers, awarded the prize to one ÷ . Patricia Driver!

So for her contribution to trans-gender carp research, and her vain attempt to restore the balance to the daughterless carp program, the Door Prize of 2002 is awarded to the out-going ASL President, **Jane Chambers**.

Tim Doeg

ASL EXECUTIVE TELECONFERENCE 8 NOVEMBER 2002

Present: A. Boulton, R. Marchant, M. Hart, S. Schreiber, J. Chambers, R. Sinclair, S. Treadwell, F. Bouckaert, M. McGuire, P. McEvoy

1. The newly elected president, Andrew Boulton, thanked Jane Chambers, the immediate past president, for all her efforts over the past two years in leading and promoting the society.

2. Post-conference comments:
   (a) The student mixer went well but more students should be encouraged to attend. Perhaps invitations could be sent directly to all students who register for a congress.
   (b) The Early Career Excellence Award was well received by Justin Brookes and his colleagues and by members. It was decided that a certificate should be presented to him at the next conference and that his expenses in attending this congress should be reimbursed (up to a total of $1500).
   (c) Megan McGuire has assembled a list of issues related to conference organisation that should be added to the current list of guidelines. Margaret Hart will liaise with Megan to produce an updated list of conference guidelines. Margaret reminded the executive that it was important that the executive had a chance to scrutinise proposed conference budgets.

3. Matters arising from the AGM at Margaret River:
   (a) An electronic newsletter: At the AGM the treasurer noted that the adoption of electronic transmission of the newsletter (via the ASL web site) would save the society money. After some discussion it was decided that members would receive the newsletter electronically unless they requested a hard copy. This would be phased in over the next two issues. Those who wanted hard copies would have to pay an extra $10 per annum to receive these.
   (b) Honoraria for the newsletter editor (Rhonda Sinclair) and the webmaster (Simon Josey): The executive agreed that a more appropriate way to thank them was by waiving their membership fees than by giving them cash.
   (c) Nomination of Cooper Creek for World Heritage listing: At the AGM Kerry Muller offered to follow up this issue with the Minister for Water Resources in SA. No further details have been forthcoming and decisions will be left until the next meeting when more information may be available. Sabine Schreiber will try to find out what environmental details are required to support a nomination.

4. Joint ASL/NZ Limnological Society Congress in December 2003: Advertisements about this joint meeting will be taken to the forthcoming NZ Limnological Society meeting by Andrew Boulton.

5. Recent events:
   (a) Australian Water Partnership: Sabine Schreiber attended a meeting in Melbourne at which the Global Water Partnership (based in Stockholm) explained that it was interested in setting up an Australian chapter. The main aim of this organisation is to facilitate networking for managers of freshwater resources. They welcomed the ASL„s expertise and credibility and invited ASL members to join a steering committee. Sabine Schreiber will provide some background about GWP in the newsletter and will ask via the ASL list server for anyone who wishes to join this committee.

(b) Science Meets Parliament: No ASL members are attending on behalf of the society but there may well be members attending on behalf of other organisations, e.g. from the CRC for Freshwater Ecology. Richard Marchant will try to obtain a list of such members who might be able to provide Fred Bouckaert with feedback and issues that he could take to the FASTS annual meeting.

6. Electronic version of brochures: Paul McEvoy suggested that pdf versions of the brochure could be circulated to the executive. Megan McGuire will send out more paper copies of brochures to the executive.

7. Executive roles: Jane Chambers suggested that specific jobs should be allotted to members of the executive (and other ASL members). The following roles were agreed on:
Special Publications - R. Marchant with B. Knott, the current editor;
Co-ordinator of Policy Documents -S. Schreiber;
Submissions Co-ordinator fi F. Bouckaert;
Media Liaison - A. Boulton will ask Tim Doeg if he is willing to do this;
Awards - A. Boulton and J. Chambers will coordinate the ASL Medal and Early Career Awards,
Student Travel Awards - R. Marchant ;
Promotional Co-ordinator - M. McGuire.

Ninth International Conference on River Research and Applications

formerly Ninth International Symposium on Regulated Streams (NISORS)

CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Ninth International Conference on River Research and Applications* will be held on the banks of the River Murray at Albury, New South Wales, Australia, from **Sunday 6 July to Friday 11 July, 2003**. It will be an opportunity for environmental scientists, managers and students from throughout the world to share their discoveries and ideas about river ecosystems.

The theme for the meeting is

THE NATURE OF VARIABILITY IN RIVER ENVIRONMENTS

By their nature, rivers extend over large areas and persist for long periods of time, and to understand them we need to relate observations made at many different scales of space and time. The ways that patterns and processes are distributed across scales, from days to centuries and reaches to catchments, may be what most distinguishes the big rivers of the world. Yet we know little of the nature of this variability, its environmental and evolutionary consequences and its significance for resource management.

The theme is not exclusive, as papers on all aspects of river regulation will be considered.

Papers submitted for presentation may be considered for publication in the international journal *River Research & Applications*, published by John Wiley and Sons.

For more general information, see the Internet at http//:www.conlog.com.au/NISORS.

Registration details and other logistic information should be directed to Ms Elizabeth Medley (conference@conlog.com.au).

Inquiries about the scientific program should be directed to A/Professor Martin Thoms (thoms@scides.canberra.edu.au).

Deadline for abstracts: 31st January 2003

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

SYMPOSIUM ON URBANIZATION AND STREAM ECOLOGY

8 to 9 December, 2003

Melbourne, Australia.

Expressions of interest are invited from ecological researchers and practitioners to attend the Symposium on Urbanization and Stream Ecology. The symposium will aim to:

- bring together and synthesize current knowledge of the effects of urban land-use on stream ecosystems
- examine priorities and potential for stream restoration in urban catchments
- identify knowledge gaps to direct future ecological research in urban catchments.

The symposium, to be held at an inner-city location in Melbourne in the austral summer of 2003, will consist of a day of plenary papers presenting some of the world's foremost research on stream ecology in urbanized catchments, followed by a day of contributed papers.

Plenary speakers include:

- Steward Pickett, Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Milbrook USA (Baltimore Long Term Ecological Study)
- Derek Booth, Center for Water and Watershed Studies, University of Washington, Seattle USA.
- Judy Meyer, River Basin Science and Policy Center, Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia, USA
- Chris Walsh, Cooperative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology, Monash University, Australia.

If you are interested in contributing a paper or attending the symposium, please send a message to Chris.Walsh@ sci.monash.edu.au

Further announcements will be made in the coming months including a formal call for papers and more details on venue and registration.

The symposium is being supported by the Cooperative Research Centres for Freshwater Ecology and Catchment Hydrology, together with the Melbourne Water Corporation.

Chris Walsh
Chair, Organizing Committee,
Symposium on Urbanization and Stream Ecology
CRC for Freshwater Ecology
Water Studies Centre
PO Box 23
Monash University
Clayton 3800
AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN INVENTORIES OF FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

The full 20-page report can be downloaded from www.users.bigpond.com/jon.nevill/Australian_fw_inventories.doc (note the spaces are really underlined). Other related documents are available on www.onlyoneplanet.com.au.

OVERVIEW:

Generally speaking, all jurisdictions have developed State-wide inventories for *important wetlands*, although in every case except the ACT these inventories remain under development or review. Only the ACT, NSW and Victoria have developed detailed *river* inventories, although all other jurisdictions have initiated river inventory projects of some kind. The national wild rivers database was constructed from information supplied by State governments. *Subterranean ecosystems* (aquifers) have not been inventoried in any jurisdiction, although NSW has made plans to initiate an inventory project, subject to funding.

The condition of State inventories of freshwater ecosystems can be assessed using the four criteria discussed above: are they:

- *comprehensive*? fi do they cover rivers and subterranean ecosystems, as well as wetlands?
- do they contain adequate information on ecosystem *values* to support State planning and assessment frameworks?
- do they contain *condition* indices enabling ongoing reporting? Sustainability targets depend on this data fi without it the effectiveness of ‚sustainable„ resource management cannot be adequately assessed; and
- are they readily *accessible*, not only to decision-makers, but to all relevant stakeholders?

National Heritage Trust funding, as well as funding through State river health programs and the Commonwealth Land and Water Australia / Environment Australia river health programs has enabled considerable condition information to be collected using AusRivAS macroinvertebrate data, and condition indices like the Victorian Index of Stream Condition. The National Water Quality Management Strategy (formally backed by the COAG water reform framework, and more recently the Commonwealth Government‚s National Action Plan) has provided a nationally consistent framework for the collection and evaluation of water quality data.

At this stage information on the fine details of State inventory programs has proved difficult to obtain. It seems safe to say, however, that inventories of wetlands are better developed than inventories or river or subterranean ecosystems. Inventory data on value is sparse in several States, but generally more available than data on condition. Public accessibility to inventory data varies considerably depending on the type and scale of the data, but is difficult in several jurisdictions. Some data held by State agencies (like the Queensland river value data, for example) has not been released at this stage fi so is effectively totally inaccessible.

Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania all have State-wide wetland inventories, although in all cases except Victoria these inventories are incomplete even with respect to location data for smaller wetland types. None of these inventories contains comprehensive value or condition information.

Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland have funded projects specifically aimed at identifying rivers of high natural value. At this stage the report from the Queensland program remains unpublished, while both Victoria and NSW have published reports.

Only Victoria has a State-wide inventory of river ecosystems carrying data on value and condition fi however even here data access is a problem, as information is contained in a variety of datasets, some of which are difficult to obtain or out-of-date. A comment by Janet Stein is important: ‡almost all State assessments have focused on rivers and often only the largest rivers. Yet small streams and minor tributaries make up by far the most significant portion of the total stream length and of course have a major influence on the condition of the rivers. They represent very different types of aquatic ecosystems and should not be forgotten in conservation assessment. I would argue therefore, that no truly comprehensive inventories exist in any State· . [Janet Stein, ANU, (02)-6125 4669]

No jurisdiction has developed a State-wide inventory of subterranean ecosystems, and New South Wales is the only jurisdiction to propose the development of such an inventory.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

All States need to take major steps to improve inventories in the interests of the sustainable management of natural values. The Commonwealth needs to provide additional focussed funding, particularly where opportunities exist to assist efforts to develop coordinated national approaches to inventory preparation and dissemination.

Consistency of approach across different States is an area where considerable improvements could be made fi for example in relation to classification systems for wetlands, rivers and aquifers. In this regard (expressing a personal view) the wetland classification methods adopted in the Queensland Wetlands Inventory may offer a useful lead.

It is crucial that, as inventories develop, value and condition data be incorporated. This information is needed to support other decision frameworks fi related to development planning and sustainable resource management programs. Public access to inventory data is an area where all jurisdictions need to make significant improvements.

Condition indices are another example where there is room for improvement. The Victorian Index of Stream Condition (ISC) has become widely used, and has prompted developments which may see a national approach to the measurement of stream condition. Having succeeded with rivers, research now needs to be put into developing indices applicable to different types of wetland and subterranean ecosystem.

We also need to move towards a rural culture which considers catchments and bioregions as fundamental frameworks guiding local decision-making. We also need an urban culture comfortable with paying rural communities for the maintenance of ecosystem values and services‘. Hopefully (over the next few years) motorists will start to see creek crossings labelled, not only with their catchment, but with their bioregion as well.

Jon Nevill [jnevill@ netspace.net.au]

SCUTTLEBUTT, RUMOUR AND A BIT OF PRATTLE

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT, WA

Here in the aquatic research lab of the Department of Conservation and Land Management one large project is in the writing up phase and another one is just getting under way. The wetland component of the biological survey of the Wheatbelt region is almost complete, with **Stuart Halse, Mike Lyons and Adrian Pinder** writing a series of papers on the diversity, distribution and conservation of the region,s aquatic invertebrates, wetland plants and waterbirds. The project collected almost 1000 species of aquatic invertebrates from the 230 wetlands surveyed and **Jane McRae** is now duplicating the voucher collection for deposition at the Western Australian Museum. The wheatbelt region is severely affected by secondary salinisation and information on the distribution of the region,s biota obtained during this survey will be used to prioritise conservation activities, such as the selection of catchments with high biodiversity value for protection and rehabilitation.

A parallel project, monitoring invertebrates, waterbirds and flora at 25 wheatbelt wetlands will continue, and **David Cale** has recently completed the Spring 2002 invertebrate sampling (at least for the wetlands that were not drylands). **Melita Pennifold** and **Rebecca Dobbs** are assisting Dave with sample sorting while he and Stuart write up a report on the results obtained so far.

The next biological survey is to be undertaken in the Pilbara region, with the stygofauna component already underway and the surface water component to commence from mid-2003. So, **Stuart Halse, Mike Scanlon, Jim Cocking** and **Jane McRae** have already been putting miniature nets down bore holes in the region to sample the ultimate in black boxes. Jim and Mike are at present taking more samples of this fauna in the 45°C Pilbara heat, with field meters that have decided it is too hot to work and wax labelling pencils that have to be kept in an Engel car fidge to harden before writing sample labels, so there will plenty of specimens to occupy us during the summer months.

Annette Mackintosh has begun a PhD at ANU on the ecology of ostracods from the Pilbara, supervised by **Patrick De Deckker**, as part of the survey, **Tom Karanovic** will be working at the Western Australian Museum on the taxonomy of the copepods collected and **Stefan Eberhardt** will be involved in survey analysis while completing is PhD at Murdoch on the ecology of the Margaret River caves.

From

Adrian Pinder

CENTRE FOR CATCHMENT AND IN-STREAM RESEARCH, GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY, BRISBANE

In April 2002, **Angela Arthington** undertook a review of the fisheries research programme of the Mekong River Commission, as part of an overview of the Commision's portfolio of projects and activities. She visited research institutes and agencies in the four riparian countries and met with some Aussie colleagues from ASL, including **Ian Campbell, Kent Hortle** and **Chris Barlow**, who now work with the MRC. Inspired by insights into the ecology and fisheries of the Mekong, **Angela** recently gave papers at two meetings of the Mekong Dialogue. This was a programme of events in Australia and Thailand designed to open up debate and cooperation between civil society, and national and regional policy and decision makers in the Mekong River Basin countries including Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos PDR and Thailand, Burma, and Yunnan Province (China). Appropriate models of river basin development and management in the Mekong Region, and the role of civil society were the key areas of discussion. **Angela's** papers discussed the ecological importance of the natural river flow regime, environmental flow methods and lessons from Australia.

Tim Moulton and his students **Marcelo de Souza** and **Ernesto Brito** of Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro are comparing some forested coastal streams of Southeast Queensland with some they have studied in Southeast Brazil. In Brazil such streams often have a conspicuous fauna of atyid (*Potimirim glabra*) and palaemonid (*Macrobrachium olfersi*) shrimps. By excluding shrimps from small quadrats using electricity, **Tim, Marcelo** and **Ernesto** have shown that atyid shrimps have a strong interaction with the epilithon, and essentially ‡clean· hard substrates of sediments and components of the periphyton. The results from repeating such an experiment in the Conondale Ranges just north of Brisbane have shown a similar pattern fi when atyids (*Paratya australiensis*) were excluded, sediments built up rapidly on the bricks and natural cobbles of the experimental quadrats. They did not expect the phenomenon to be so marked in the winter conditions of the stream, which had low to no flow during the experiment. The effect should be more pronounced at higher flows, and they plan to repeat the experiment this summer. They will also look out for the types trophic cascades they find in Brazilian streams. As well as being of basic scientific interest, the result implies that the top-down effect of fauna should be considered and perhaps incorporated in biomonitoring and assessment of streams. (**Tim, Marcelo** and **Ernesto** are visiting CCISR, ENS, Griffith University until June 2003. They are presenting a poster of their research at the ESA meeting in Cairns, 2-6 December, 2002.)

Claire McKenny has finished field work for her PhD (which examines the relationship between algal productivity & composition and macroinvertebrate grazer diversity) and has once again been seen smiling in the corridors since completing the identification of the last of many bug samples. She is currently running some laboratory feeding experiments and tinkering with gut contents, and hopes to finish writing up by July 2003. The Environmental Health Monitoring Program (EHMP) team, formerly DIBM3 have completed their spring monitoring fieldwork which incorporated 120 sites across SE Qld. This exercise introduced a number of new staff to **CCISR** for the field sampling, a number who are staying to analyse the data: **Andrew Cook, Carl Murray, Mark Seifert** and **Keith Preston**. The Dryland River Refugia team have completed their spring fieldwork with a combined Cooper Ck fi Warrego R. trip in October and the first sampling trip to the Border Rivers in November. **Neal Foster** (DLWC fi Tamworth) joined the team and raised the culinary standards on the two field trips especially with his home-made fruit cakes. We also had a few new faces on these trips including **Stephen Faggotter, Mellisa Jackson, Mia Hillyer, Andrew Cook, Carl Murray** and **Mark Seifert**. Production of the next Refugium Calendar is well under way. A sneak preview of the 2003 edition was unveiled at the recent CRCFE AGM with rave reviews and looks like being a best seller.

From

Stephen (Harry) Balcombe

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

(SOON TO BE JUST CALLED GEOGRAPHY)

Sorell Bulpin is pushing along with her Tareena Billabong palaeolimnology work and has won an AINSE grant to help sure up the radiometric dating of the sediments. **Craig McVeigh** is winding his way back from fieldwork in Brazil via the ECRC in London and a plush villa in the south of Spain and will also be sent to ANSTO to fulfil his recently won AINSE grant for dating. **Brendan Walsh** managed to break his wrist 3 weeks before his honours was due and managed to get an extension out of kind-hearted old Uncle Marty Williams. His 14 m record from Muroondi Wetland on the lower Murray could win any crazy chronology prize ever offered [A great palynologist once said the more dates you get the more confusing the chronology - and I think Brendan would have to agree]. Diatoma (mostly **Cameron Barr** with the occasional input of Peter et al.) has finalised projects on the Daly River Environmental Flows (with **Simon Townsend**), the south-east Drainage Board (SA), on Cobdogla Basin for the Murray Catchment Board and on the Sydney Catchment (with AWQC) and continue to work on samples from across Victoria, NSW and Queensland for several very kind people based in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Cameron has also been working, in association with **Jan Skjemsted** (CSIRO), on the salinity-fire-climate event at 500 BC on Kangaroo Island. **Nicole Morcom** took over the 0.2 position we were kindly permitted after the departure of our 1.0 Lab Manager **Chris Grivell**. She and Greg Smith (recent winner of the IV (Ted) Davis Cup of Golf) have expertly turned themselves from Rhodophyte and waterbird experts respectively, into diatomatons. **Gus McGregor** is back from northern hemisphere wanderings and has a permanent seat in Diatoma and at The Exeter. We look forward to the immigration of **John Tibby**, **Jennie Fluin** (and **Max** and **Jack**) in December (what? moving from Melbourne TO Adelaide?). John will work on Peter's Linkage Grant on the Torrens Reservoirs (as well as dating Lake Ainsworth supported by his AINSE grant) and Jen will help hold the fort in Diatoma (and the more challenging fort at home). Also, we anticipate the arrival of **Aline Philabert**, and French palaeolimnologist presently based in Canada, for much of 2003. Lastly, fingers crossed for four applicants for APA scholarships for diatom projects - news about the succesful ones next time around.

From

Peter Gell

A Letter from the Corridors of Sense and Reason

At the beginning of the year Adelaide University (newly adopted operating name to put the institution at the head of the list) embarked upon its new Secondary Education initiative with the Adelaide Senior College. The new college required the use of a building (# 1) that housed part of my Department so the dollars were found to move that part, and our research centre (then housed in a different building again (# 2)), in with us in building # 3 (to accommodate this another Department was moved across the road into from building # 3 into building # 2).

To celebrate this co-location, new flash signs were constructed for the research centre, Adelaide University and the, now co-located, Department. These were afixed to the wall outside a new office front - a window to the outside world. This year the Council changed the name of the institution back to The University of Adelaide, and so down came one of the signs. We have now also shifted to a school structure so the Department sign has a few weeks to live and the other Department is moving back to the offices in building # 3 it was in last january (along with another Department from building # 3 and one from building # 4). Also, the research centre is to be part of a new Research Institute and may move back to its previous accommodation, again back across the road into building # 2. Fortunately, owing to its name change it has a nicely adorned piece of wood ready to be removed from the wall and made into a coffee table. Meanwhile it is proposed that our Professor, who won one of the acclaimed Federation Fellowships, be replaced by a lecturer B.

I'm sure there are, in the present climate, many other examples of laudable decisions from the Corridors of Sense & Reason. Let's hear some.

Alias Supplied

SGS Environmental Services – Gippsland Biology Unit

Australian Environmental Laboratories' (AEL's) Gippsland laboratory, which is based in Traralgon, has recently been merged into the SGS Group. SGS (or *Société Générale de Surveillance*) is the world,s leading integrated service provider in the field of testing, certification and inspection. Based in Geneva, Switzerland, and with 856 offices, and 330 laboratories, in more than 140 countries around the world, the SGS Group offers unrivalled global reach, experience, and accessibility.

As part of the changeover, AEL Gippsland is to be renamed *SGS Environmental Services - Gippsland.* Internationally, SGS Environmental Services is positioned as a multi-disciplined, core business activity of the SGS Group, active in all aspects of classical laboratory analysis, special project work and industrial services, with the capability to cover all facets of environmental sampling, real-time monitoring and analytical determinations. SGS Environmental Services provides widespread scientific and technical services to both public and private sector clients on a global and localised basis. The group offers consistency, innovation, high ethical values, environmental sensitivity, health and safety, and a deep respect for stakeholder values, combined into single total business solutions for our clients. Our vision is to be the global partner of choice whenever business opportunities exist in the private or public scientific and industrial sectors.

At a local level, SGS Environmental Services - Gippsland has recently expanded its Biology Unit, with a new crew (**David Sheehan, Jo Csik, Ann Munro** and **Stephan Gabas**) and a new focus. The Biology Unit has recently undergone a NATA audit to become re-accredited for the identification and enumeration of Cyanobacteria and Microalgae Testing. Signatory status has been approved for **Stephan Gabas,** the recently appointed Aquatic Biologist. In addition to Cyanobacteria and Microalgae, the Biology Unit can also provide expert services in stream monitoring, fish ecology and general aquatic ecology, in both Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems.

From

Stephan Gabas [Stephan_Gabas@sgs.com]

WSL Consultants – Aquatic Ecology

As the weather warms in Victoria the macroinvertebrate lab has been busy doing its spring sampling run of Victorian streams as part of EPA compliance monitoring. **Patrick Maiden** has decided to change sampling locations for the season, creating waves sailing the tropical waters of the Whitsundays for his honeymoon instead. **David Bryant** has returned from another extended venture into the deserts of WA so mystery bugs may soon be turning up in our samples. **Eddie Tsyrlin** has jumped on board to help out with some bug work (unfortunately, no signs of vodka yet). **Genevieve Hehir** and **Danny Vertessy** continue to be our backbone.

The algal lab is once again busy with the seasonal increase in algal samples. With the low water levels and warm temperatures it looks like **Karen Simonsen** and **Ann Chuang** will be in for a busy year. **Gosia Przbylska** continues with the processing of Northern Territory samples.

Jenny Martin and **Danka Majstorovic** in micro have decided its time for the beach, having been engaged to provide the EPA with microbiological services for its summer Beach Report program. No Slip, Slop, Slapping required unfortunately in the lab but perhaps the smell of seawater. **Ann Chuang** will be assisting with sandcastles.

From

David Bryant

AUSTRALIAN WATER QUALITY CENTRE, BOLIVAR SOUTH AUSTRALIA AQUATIC ECOLOGY & BIOMONITORING SUB-UNIT

Hearty Congratulations to our fellow biologist **Justin Brookes** on being selected as the winner of the inaugural ASL Early Career Achievement Award.

Peter Schultz joined a small South Australian contingent at Margaret River. As always ASL Congress is a great networking venue as well as a most valuable information source. He gave an oral presented and represented **Tracy, Paul, Daria, Vlad, Darren** and **Chris** during the poster session. The whole team eagerly read the Abstracts when Pedro finally returned as he took the opportunity to view SW WA with Chrissy and caravan.

Tracy and **Paul** completed a survey of the Marne River catchment in which a very wet spring 2001 was followed by a very dry autumn 2002. The report has included past data from the catchment and was prepared for Kerri Muller and Mardi van der Wielen at the River Murray Catchment Water Management Board. Other members of the Technical Panel for the EWR study include Tim Doeg, Sandra Brizga and Michael Hammer.

Studies to underpin the derivation of environmental water provisions from the South Para Dam are scheduled for next year. Another project for the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation will consider the same at other storages in the Mt Lofty Ranges.

Government ministers, chocolate manufacturers and a fish biologists don‚ often rub shoulders. All three were part of the launch of the Chocolate Pygmy Perch on the Monday of National Water Week. Information panels, live Pygmy Perch, trays of water bugs and a person in a frog suit (the mascot of Watercare) added further fervour to the lunchtime atmosphere of Rundle Mall in the CBD.

Most of the team spent time in mid September to assist with the annual Waterwatch Snapshot activities and National Water Week in October.

Peter Goonan of the EPA has been summarising the data from the Ausrivas assessments of South Australian streams and, with the help of **Daria Taylor, Paul McEvoy** and **Chris Madden,** will be producing some brochures for public consumption which show the Ausrivas scores on maps along with some pictures of sites and animals.

Sampling for the Sustainable Rivers Audit Pilot Study has finished but processing of bug samples continues apace. Fish, water chemistry and riparian habitat have also been assessed in the SA part of the Murray. Initial results from the autumn bug samples show that most sites on the Murray don‚ rate too well but we are aware that good ‡reference· sites don‚ exist in SA, so a new version of the Ausrivas model may be required.

Our parent, SA Water, this year released a Strategic Plan that includes reference to water quality, environmental flows and sustainability. That has provided us with an opportunity to increase our lobbying for the Corporation to devote more resources to limnological issues.

The Centre is surrounded by large areas of open space and brown snakes are regularly encountered outside of (and occasionally inside) the buildings. Paul discovered that there was less risk of meeting a snake if one went into the field, though it was only a few km away at the Little Para wetlands. He was there to present a training course to employees of a winery on collection, identification and reporting of nuisance, indicator and potential health risk aquatic invertebrates.

The midges from the Bolivar WWTP lagoons are still causing a nuisance to some local businesses and residents. As an alternative to chemical control, some *Paratya australiensis* have been introduced to the lagoons as detrital competitors (they will also consume small larvae and egg masses incidentally) by **Darren Hicks** and **Chris Madden**. Caged specimens survived for several weeks and it is hoped that the free range animals have fared better and the larvae from the females that were in berry have survived to establish a population. The shrimp survival will be a guide to the possibility of successfully introducing other native predators.

Chris and Paul attended the Water for the Environment Workshop along with what seemed thousands. *The Advertiser* unwittingly provided additional focus for the topic, with the front page for that day,s edition showing the channel of the Darling near Wentworth containing only a shallow pool. Participants came from a wide range of backgrounds, including local government and farmers. While we have had exposure to much of the information dealing with surface water, the sessions on groundwater dependent ecosystems provided fresh insights, like considering streams at baseflow as gde s.

Our team had success at the AWA SA Water Awards. Our submission was a research project aimed at clarifying the role of physical habitat in determining the distribution of macroinvertebrates in the Onkaparinga River and its tributaries. Four members of the Aquatic Ecology and Biomonitoring team (**Tracy Venus, Daria Taylor, Amber Lang** and **Paul McEvoy**) delivered the project. It received a Commendation in the award category of *Research and Development.* However, the good news did not stop there! The work was done for Sinclair Knight Merz and has formed part of the ‡Environmental Water Requirements of the Onkaparinga River Catchment· project of the Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board. The entire project was entered in the awards, and it dominated the results fi winning in two categories: *Studies, Plans and Investigations* and *Water, Environment and Society.* We can claim a share of the success, as **Paul M^cEvoy, Peter Schultz** and **Chris Madden** have been involved with other aspects such as preparation of Issues Papers, membership of the Technical Panel, participation in meetings and contribution to reports for the project.

A Workshop on Diffuse Pollution in the Mt Lofty Ranges watershed was organised in mid October. **Mike Burch** presented a summary of SA Water and AWQC work and **Peter Hobson, Caroline Fazekas, Justin Brookes, Peter Schultz, Chris Madden** and **Dennis Steffensen** also attended. Other government departments, universities, CSIRO and local councils presented summaries of work in the area as a means of fostering co-operation and collaboration between groups working in the watery habitat in the region.

Congratulations to Tracy and Brett on their marriage and Good Luck to Darren and Helen on the countdown to theirs.

For more information visit: http://www.awqc.com.au/Services/Biology/AE%20and%20Bio.htm

From

Paul McEvoy

AUSTRALIAN WATER QUALITY CENTRE, BOLIVAR SOUTH AUSTRALIA BIOLOGY RESEARCH AND OPERATIONS SUB-UNIT

It is currently ‚all systems go„ within the AWQC Biology Group. The operations lab, headed up by **Peter Baker**, is just about to embark on another summer of monitoring South Australia‚s reservoirs and rivers for phytoplankton and the dreaded blue green algae. They are also about to begin the summer monitoring of the River Torrens, and are hoping to find something weird and exciting (in the cyanobacteria world) again this summer! **Lyudmila Tsymbal** joined the group in early November to help in keeping **Dean Newman** and **Chris Blake** sane over the summer.

The Biology research group, headed up by **Mike Burch**, is also busy on a number of projects and consultancies, including the development of recreational guidelines for cyanobacteria for the NHMRC which **Peter Hobson** has been working on, although this has been put on hold temporarily while Peter gets used to being a new dad. **Justin Brookes** is currently preoccupied with pathogens hydrodynamics in reservoirs (no, he hasn't become a microbiologist!), and is working on a project to examine movement and fate of bugs such as *Cryptosporidium* by both monitoring and modelling techniques (collaborative with Jason Antenucci and Matt Hipsey at CWR), while **Andrew Humpage** is continuing with his work on toxicology of cyanobacterial toxins, particularly cylindrospermopsin.

Leon Linden has started his PhD with the CRCWQT on the impact or reservoir processes on the character of natural organic matter in reservoirs.

Fiona Harvey has returned to the AWQC Biology group after leaving there around 10 years ago. She is helping out both in the operations group, and in the research group doing a variety of different things.

From

Fiona Harvey

NEWS FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

Over the last 2-3 years, there has been much limnological work afoot in the Daly Basin which stretches from southern Arnhem Land west to the coast ~250 km south of Darwin. This area is at the heart of agricultural development based on irrigation from groundwater that maintains the Daly River and most tributaries and supports numerous other water dependent ecosystems, such as karst ecosystems and wetlands. The ‚water requirements„of tropical rivers and wetlands is largely unknown at a time when development pressures are immense and there is a management vacuum when it comes to water and natural resources in general. Funding from EA‚s Environmental Flows Initiative supported a suite of projects to determine the water requirements of the Daly River.

In summary, the *eriss* project conducted by **George Beggs** *et al* underpinned other work by mapping the wetlands and water dependent ecosystems in the basin and then applying a risk analysis given future development scenarios. Following on from previous research, **Arthur Georges, Enzo Fuarino and co.** (Univ. of Canberra) modelled the effect of reduced flow on pool connectivity and water temperatures on the habitat and breeding of the pig-nosed turtle, an endangered and very befitting icon species. **Tony O‚Grady, Derek Eamus and team** (NTU) investigated the water relations of the *Melaleuca‚s* and *Eucalypt‚s* in the Daly‚s riparian zone. Within the Natural Resources Div. DIPE, **Naomi Rea, Peter Dostine and co.** investigated the ecology of *Vallisneria nana*, the relationship between groundwater flow and water quality and the effect of reduced flow on bed exposure and preferred habitat; **Armando Padovan** studied the macroalgae *Spirogyra*, modelling the effect of reduced flow on mass; and **Simon Townsend and a caste of thousands from Monash and Univ. Adelaide** described the diatom and phytoplankton assemblages and their distribution patterns. **Ian Webster** (CSIRO Land and Water) modelled whole river ecosystem production throughout the dry season. Apologies to those not mentioned; there have been numerous gaugings, surveys, water sampling and development of models and other backup.

These recently completed projects will all be available on one CD with summaries and presentations included fi a one stop shop. Obviously there are many findings. Very briefly, during the dry season the river has extremely low nutrient levels and high light availability. Although whole river production is very high, most C is lost to the atmosphere because there are insufficient nutrients to convert production into mass. The river is strongly heterotrophic with springs throughout much of the channel supporting a significant hyporheic zone. The middle reaches have particular conservation value supporting a variety of turtle populations, fresh and saltwater, shark, stingray, sawtooth and crocodile (sound inviting?) Distinctive linear beds of *Vallisneria* occupy the outer edge of bends, while macroalgae and charophytes grow more opportunistically on the channel floor. There was a high diversity of phytoplankton and diatom taxa but their abundance was very low. Forests of *Melaleuca‚s*, *Casuarina‚s* and *Eucalypt*s are interspersed by remnant monsoon rainforest trees, all using water held in the river bank and channel. Results demonstrated that reductions in mean minimum dry season flow would be detrimental to various ecological components of the river and recommendations are being put to government ÷ ÷ . but considering the NT still has no water allocation process or management framework ÷ .. we live in hope that the river and other northern waterbodies can escape the impacts of poor land management and over allocation of water.

With the assistance of the *eriss* ecotox lab, **Clint McCullough** is continuing his PhD into the ecological effects of $MgSO_4$ on the Magela Creek from runoff from the Ranger Uranium Mine. Lab bioassays on local species are nearing completion, and a large-scale mesocosm experiment complementing this is complete, with macroinvertebrate, microinvertebrate, diatoms and phytoplankton now being analysed.

From

Naomi Rea

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND, ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

The end of the academic year sees the completion of several Honours theses fi **Kate Smolders**„project funded by the Bureau of Mineral Resources found little evidence for marked impacts of heavy metals (antimony and arsenic) on macroinvertebrate assemblages in streams draining two old mining areas on the Macleay River system. However, the heavy metal concentrations in atyid shrimps and megalopteran larvae were elevated in the more contaminated sections fi for those interested in eating dobsonfly larvae, these concentrations far exceeded Australian shellfish standards! **Imogen Edmunds**, cosupervised by **Tim Entwisle**, has also found high concentrations in the algae and is exploring options for phytoremediation in the area. **Brooke Turner**, working with **Peter Hancock**, has completed analysis of their project exploring the effects on the hyporheic zone at several sites along the Hunter River of an environmental flow release. They found evidence of transitory flushing of the hyporheic zone by this modest flushing flow but Peter„s excitement about the findings is eclipsed by his being a new dad fi warm congratulations to Peter and Mel on the birth of their daughter Stephanie. Further congratulations go to **Sandra Grinter** for successful completion of her PhD thesis on longitudinal trends in the riparian zones of three North Coast rivers.

Kim Jenkins has returned from her great overseas tour that took in Spain, Alaska and New Mexico (along with some fly fishing and margaritas) and is spending some time in the Department to write up papers from her thesis. We also warmly welcomed **Darren Ryder** and **Adrienne Burns** to join our group at UNE. Darren successfully interviewed for the lectureship in Ecosystem Rehabilitation in our department, and has plunged into the deep end to pick up a critical role replacing **Alistar Robertson**, supervising several PhD students about to undertake an integrative research project assessing the responses to rehabilitation of an 8-km stretch of the Hunter River. More details on this soon. Also joining our department are two GIS/remote sensing experts **Paul Frazier** and **Lalit Kumar**, and you will hear more of their projects planned with **Darren Ryder** next issue.

From

Andrew Boulton

DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION, CENTRE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES

Bruce Chessman has been working on the compilation of the first major State-wide technical report for the IMEF (Integrated Monitoring of Environmental Flows) program, while squeezing in some field work with **Meredith Royal, Nirvana Searle, Warren Martin** and **Monika Muschal** on evaluating potential biological performance indicators for water management in unregulated streams.

Monika Muschal has been working steadily on the CRCFE Associate Project "Assessment of the risk to aquatic biota from unnaturally elevated salinity - Hunter River case study". The first phase of the Ecological Risk Assessment has been completed and Monika is finalising a draft report at the moment. Monika completed her Masters of Scientific Studies with the University of Newcastle in June, and despite stressing out at times with trying to juggling work and study, she thoroughly enjoyed working on her chosen project, which was describing the zooplankton of the beautiful Myall Lakes system, located on the NSW coast north of Newcastle. After a winter spent stuck behind the computer, Monika is also looking forward to getting out and doing some field work in November with **Bruce Chessman, Meredith Royal** and **Nirvana Searle** on the Ecological Performance Assessment project, this time conducted on unregulated rivers and streams of the Hunter and Lower North Coast regions.

Amanda Gordon has been working on issues relating to unregulated river flow management, in particular developing an Ecological Decision Support Framework for determining environmental flows. The Ecological decision support project also includes developing a spatial framework decsion support tool and is lead by **Michael Healey** and involves **Ivor Growns** and **Peter Serov. Ivor Growns** has been heavily involved with the Independent Expert Panel to the Hawkesbury-Nepean River Management Forum which is trying to decide how much water the Hawkesbury-Nepean River is allowed to have. Ivor is also trying to find time to work on his other two projects, the effects of drying in permanent streams and the influence of freshwater flows to estuaries. **Bronwen Jones** is playing with fish and is investigating the relationship between stratification and flow in the Darling River. In addition to this Bronwen is planning to spend the hottest part of this summer fishing out "the back of Bourke" in order to look at the impact of stratification on Murray Cod. This will be the initial phase of planned studies using ultrasonic telemetry on some of the larger (native) biota in the river. **Doug Westhorpe** has been busy preparing for the next regulated rivers conference in Albury next year and is trying to figure out trophic differences between unregulated and regulated rivers. Here is his abstract which is coauthored by **Lorraine Hardwick & Bruce Chessman**

Trophic differences between unregulated and regulated rivers, evidence from stable isotopes and C:N ratios

Stable isotopes (d13C & d15N) in biofilms and non-predatory macroinvertebrates and C:N ratios of biofilms were compared over a 21-month period among two regulated and two unregulated rivers in the Murrumbidgee River basin, New South Wales, Australia. Biofilms had much higher d15N values and lower C:N ratios in the regulated rivers than in the unregulated rivers. Differences in d13C were less pronounced, but the regulated rivers were generally more 13C depleted than the two unregulated rivers. Comparisons of isotope signatures between biofilms and non-predatory macroinvertebrates suggested strong trophic linkages in one regulated river only. However, even there the relationships were not consistent over the study period, implying seasonal of life cycle changes in feeding preferences. Macroinvertebrates in the regulated rivers appear more reliant on autochthonous food sources than those in the unregulated rivers, but this difference may be mediated by stream size and water quality rather than regulation *per se.*

From

Ivor Growns

CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Professor Barry Hart arrived in September as a visiting Gledden Senior Fellow at CWR for four months. Barry is Professor of Environmental Chemistry, Director of Water Studies Centre at Monash University and Director of Research, CRC for Freshwater Ecology. While at CWR, Barry will further develop quantitative methods (particularly ecological models and Bayesian statistics) for application in ecological risk assessment. Barry is currently a member of the Victorian Catchment Management Council, a Board member of the Victorian Environment Protection Authority, a member of the Gippsland Lakes and Catchment Taskforce, Chair of the Gippsland Integrated Natural Resource Management Forum and Chair of the Alligator River Region Technical Committee.

Visitors to the Centre in November included **Professor John Melack** in November from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He followed up on his previous visit last year working on modelling the zooplankton of Mono Lake using DYRESM-CAEDYM and looking at Lake Calculator. He also presented two seminars on his work on remote sensing of the Amazon Basin. Also, **Dr Anas Ghadouani** from the University of Waterloo, Canada met with staff and students to discuss their projects and find out about UWA and Perth. He presented a seminar outlining his work on the scales of interaction between zooplankton and phytoplankton in lakes. Former CWR lecturer **Dr David Hamilton** returned briefly to the Centre in October from the University of Waikato to discuss ongoing projects with staff and students.

In October, **Professor Jorg Imberger** travelled to Boise, Idaho as part of the Brownlee Reservoir project. Jorg met with research partners Idaho Power Company and University of Idaho to discuss the current progress of the project, detailing field experiments and data collection. In November, Jorg traveled to Japan to attend the workshop on Sustainable Environmental Management of Catchment Ecosystem in the Asia-Pacific Region. Jorg presented a keynote speech addressing lake management. Jorg then traveled to Denver, Colorado to participate in the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography workshop "Emerging Research Issues for Limnology: The Study of Inland Waters", hosted by the National Science Foundation and the ASLO. The workshop considered the future of basic research in limnology for the next decade.

Dr Carolyn Oldham and **Professor Greg Ivey** are part of a newly funded Western Australian Centre for Excellence for Sustainable Mine Lakes. Carolyn and Greg, along with a team of postdocs and PhD students yet to be appointed, will be improving our ability to predict the long term water quality in these lakes, which form after the cessation of mining activities in open cut mines. The waters are usually extremely low pH (around 3-4), have high concentrations of metals, and very low productivity. As part of the new Centre's activities, in August Carolyn visited UFZ, the Centre for Environmental Research in Madgeburg, Germany. This group has a major research activity in the remediation of the large number of mine lakes that formed after the closure of the former East Germany's lignite mines. UFZ has a large team of chemists, microbiologists and hydrodynamists working on mine lakes and a research partnership with them is being developed.

CWR conducted a large field campaign in Sydney in October as part of the Sydney Catchment Authority project to look at limnological modelling systems for Lake Burragorang and Prospect Reservoir. The four-week field trip involved several staff and postgraduate students, along with collaborators from the University of Western Sydney. Postgrad activities included an inflow experiment for **Rocio Fernandez**, a withdrawal experiment for **Vadim Anohin** and a Prospect

Reservoir littoral exchange experiment for **Patricia Okely**. All experiments were accompanied with biogeochemical sampling.

In October, PhD candidate **Joanne O'Callaghan** presented her work on the Swan River at different locations in Italy, Germany and the US. First, she gave an oral presentation at the international workshop titled Sediment Transport in European Estuaries which was held in Ferrara, Italy. Then she travelled to Germany and presented a poster at the Physics of Estuaries and Coastal Seas conference in Hamburg. Finally, she presented a seminar at Stanford University in the US entitled "The influence of low-frequency sea level changes on the hydrodynamics, salinity and turbidity distribution in a micro-tidal estuary" which is a field investigation of the upper Swan River estuary.

Contract Group Manager **Jason Antenucci** travelled in November to the USA and Canada, stopping off in Atlanta, Vicksburg, Toronto and Seattle for meetings and presentations. Jason teamed up with representatives from the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Water Quality and Treatment, South Australia and the University of New South Wales to report on the progress of the large pathogen project which is being funded by the American Water Works Association Research Foundation. AWWARF are supporting this large project to track and model what happens to pathogens such as *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* during floods in reservoirs in South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria.

For more CWR news visit www.cwr.uwa.edu.au and click on "Splashback"

From

Richard Segal

THE MURRAY-DARLING FRESHWATER RESEARCH CENTRE

Albury:

Staff at MDFRC have survived not one, but two AGM„s (and all in one week!!). The inaugural MDFRC AGM was held on 18 November, and was attended by staff from Albury, Miludra and Goondiwindi. The AGM provided a time to reflect on what we like and dislike about working for MDFRC. A boat cruise in the evening, and a BBQ on an island in the middle of the Murray, allowed time to ponder deeper questions over a few refreshments. Whilst the crew were together, the Inaugural MDFRC State of Origin Golf Day was played out the following morning, and was won by the NSW connection of **Gavin (Sweet) Rees** and **Robbie (Smok„n) Cook**.

The CRCFE Board meeting on 19 November approved 10 projects for the next phase of the research portfolio development. MDFRC researchers lead or jointly lead, 4 of the 10 new projects, including Flows (**Shaun Meredith**), Salinity (**Daryl Nielsen** and **Gavin Rees**), Connectivity (**Paul Humphries**) and Rehabilitation (**Darren Baldwin**).

The CRCFE AGM was held at Lake Hume Resort from 20 - 22 November. In addition to the usual items such as updates from different CRC centres and programs, the agenda included discussion sessions to promote the exchange of ideas and approaches to different management issues on day 2. The first session was led by Sam Lake, who discussed the concepts of habitats within the landscape. Later in the day there were three concurrent sessions to examine questions related to ‚What is habitat?„ ‚How do we set restoration targets?„ and ‚Are floods overrated for lowland river health?„ Time was also set aside for project groups to meet. Other items discussed included the continued development of the research portfolio and starting to think about what a CRCFE Mk3 might look like.

Trish Bowen, a University of Canberra PhD student based at the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre, will be completing 18 months of field monitoring in December. Trish is looking at how inputs of macrophyte organic matter to rivers changes with flow and the responses of in-stream microbial communities to these inputs. Lab experiments on rates of leaching of OM from different macrophytes and a mesocosm study of the effects of inundation depth and duration on plant senescence will be taking up most of Trish„s time over the next three months.

The **Mudfreaks Touch Footy Team** have played 6 games so far fi won 4, lost 2. The team is a good mix of beginners and people who„ve played a bit, and it has a great social atmosphere and is good fun all round. The Microbiologists are leading the try-scoring tally, backed up by the great ball skills and defence of the bug, zoop and plant people. Now if we could only get our Director to spend less time traveling to meetings and more time on the field÷ ..

Goondiwindi:

Yes, the rumour is true fi MDFRC does have a (small but growing) bunch of people at the top of the basin, attempting to gain all wisdom on the northern, summer-rainfall river systems that feed the Barwon fi Darling valley. At present, the team comprises **Glenn Wilson** (Scientist in Charge), **Anthony Wallis** (Research Assistant) and **Mark Southwell** (Community Scientist). Anthony works on the ‚Assessing river health in the northern MDB„ project while Mark„s role is predominately to strengthen the lab„s knowledge-exchange efforts. Both Anthony and Mark joined the lab mid-year after working for Qld Natural Resources and Mines and completing Honours studies at the University of Canberra, respectively.

On top of that, the lab will be seeking to fill a postdoc-level scientist position and a research assistant position soon. A PhD project ($24,000 stipend + operating budget) is also available for immediate start, looking at the biodiversity value and population ecology of on-farm water storages. Contact **Glenn Wilson** for further information.

Much of Glenn„s time lately has been spent juggling between giving presentations on the MDFRC and CRC for Freshwater Ecology to irrigator groups, catchment management bodies and officials from the Qld Treasury (!), and fieldwork commitments to the „Dryland River Refugia„ and river health projects. Field trips have been to the upper Maranoa and Condamine-Balonne river systems, and various points along the Border Rivers catchment between Goondiwindi and Collarenebri.

Mark also ventured out on the Dryland river refugia trip, helping to map waterhole geomorphology in between attempts to drain the Mungindi Hotel„s pokie machines and eyeing off the Collarenebri RSL Club as a follow-up. Meanwhile, Anthony was gleefully picking through AusRivAS samples from the river health project with John Hawking„s phone number at the ready.

Having just washed off the dust from the dryland river refugia trip, the northern crowd headed down to Albury for the MDFRC AGM which was followed by some serious southern hospitality with a mid-Murray island BBQ with boat trip (how else do you get out to an island in a river that cold?) and the inaugural (rigged?) golf day. Needless to say, the Albury crew couldn„t bear the thought of parting with their overly expensive golf trophy. S„pose there„s always next year÷

From

Glenn Wilson

ARTHUR RYLAH INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, VICTORIA

Freshwater Ecology was well represented (**Wayne Koster, Paul Close, Shanaugh McKay, Phil Papas, Sabine Schreiber** and **Di Crowther**) at the recent ASL congress in Margaret River with staff presenting on a range of diverse topics including salinity, fishways, and stream invertebrate gut contents (yuk fi all those chironomids!!)

Paul Close (environmental flows, fish assessment), who has been working in Freshwater Ecology at ARI for a few years, has been lured west (Albany, WA) and is embarking on a PhD researching estuarine fish with Peter Davies. **Alison King** has started at ARI in the fish assessment side of Freshwater Ecology, following the completion of her PhD on Recruitment of fish in the southern Murray Darling Basin early this year and a stint as a conservation manager with NSW Fisheries. **David Crook** has also taken up a fish assessment position with Freshwater Ecology. David formerly worked at the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre in Albury, NSW and recently completed his PhD on habitat use and movement of golden perch and carp.

ARI Freshwater Ecology recently held a highly successful ‚Bringing Native Fish Back to the Rivers„ information day with approximately 130 delegates in attendance from NRE, commonwealth and state agencies, catchment management authorities and water authorities. The event marked the completion and official hand-over of a series of major research projects undertaken by Freshwater Ecology for the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry-Australia (AFFA), in conjunction with the Cooperative Research Centre for Freshwater Ecology, Murray Darling Basin Commission, Environment Australia, and Land and Water Australia. Presentations included studies in river rehabilitation, native fish management, migration and fishways, threatening processes, impact and management of pest freshwater fish, a decision tool for endangered species, and conservation genetics of native fish populations. The presentations were complemented by displays of electro-fishing boats, radio-tagging and tracking gear for monitoring fish movements and computer simulation modelling for managing fish populations.

From

Di Crowther and Sabine Schreiber

SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ - MELBOURNE

It,s been a busy few months for the ecologists at Sinclair Knight Merz, both professionally and personally.

Thanks to **Michael Shirley** for his efforts over the last couple of years as the Victorian rep on the ASL executive, and thanks for nominating myself as the new Victorian rep at the recent ASL congress when I wasn,t there to defend myself! Seriously though, I am looking forward to the opportunity to represent Victorian members on the Executive over the next year or so.

The two Michaels (Shirley and **Lake**) attended the ASL Congress. Michael Lake,s talk on impacts of redfin on habitat use by native fish in the Onkaparinga River in South Australia was well received by those that remained for the very last session. Congratulations goes to the team working on the Onkaparinga Environmental Flows project (including Michael Shirley, Michael Lake, **Sam Hannon** and **Bruce Abernethy**) which won awards in the 'Water, Environment and Society' and 'Studies, Plans and Investigations' categories at the recent AWA South Australia Water Awards. This was a joint award between SKM and the Onkaparinga Catchment Water Management Board.

Rod Hardwick, Simon Treadwell and Michael S. have been compiling a report for the MDBC on native fish habitat requirements and habitat management. Outcomes from this project are already feeding into inputs for modelling environmental flows in the Murray River. **Louise Donnelly** and **Gabrielle Pistone** have been busy describing catchment condition in Gippsland for Regional Catchment Strategy renewal projects and **Melinda Holt** has been busy identifying the environmental impacts of water trading. **Jacqui Brooks** is wrapping up a wetlands management plan for the Hattah Lakes and is about to start on a number of environmental monitoring projects. **Kylie Swingler** is working on several water quality projects and assisting **Julia Callaghan** and Rod on stormwater management plans.

We were recently saddened by the departure of Sam who,s headed off to make his mark in sales- good luck Sam with new career. While Rod is spending the next 6 months on secondment to Melbourne Water to help with their Regional River Health Strategy.

Michael S is breathing easy after having had his PhD thesis accepted, congratulations Michael. Simon has submitted his thesis and is awaiting examiner reports. Simon,s and **Kylie Lewin,s** nights are now kept sleepless following the recent arrival of Sarah rather than the late night machinations of a seemingly mad man trying to finish his thesis. Also on the baby front, **Emma Connell** has just given birth to James, congratulations Emma and Cliff. Congratulations also to Kylie Swingler and Paulo Lay on their recent engagement.

From

Simon Treadwell

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES (NR&M)

Well it is that time of year again when the staff here at Rocklea are getting into training for the annual flume swim challenge in December after finishing off the fieldwork components of the projects we are involved in. Hopefully **Jon Marshall** can defend his title from last year.

Kim Cheshire is our new member of staff taking over from **Bernie Cockayne** who left us to take up a position at Ecowise in their Aquatic Ecology and Biomonitoring Team. **Kim** comes from Australian Museum, Sydney and will be working on the Fitzroy Resource Operation Plan and MDBC Sustainable Rivers Audit (SRA) projects.

Diane Conrick, Andrea Prior, Chris Thomson and **Annette Ritchie** have just finished several weeks fieldwork around the state for the macroinvertebrate ambient monitoring program. **Diane** and **Andrea** are currently doing the State of the Environment reporting and **Diane** is also working on the Logan WRP. **Chris T.** has finalised the Mitchell River report looking at the impacts of landuse practises on macroinvertebrate communities.

Peter Negus, Alisha Steward, Annette, Jaye Lobegeiger, Chris Marshall and **Glenn McGregor** have also just finished sampling bugs for the Sustainable Rivers Audit Pilot in the Condamine-Balonne catchment.

Currently **Chris M., Annette, Alisha** and **Kim** along with the district hydrographers are collecting field data for bugs, macrophytes, diatoms and benthic metabolism for the second season of the Fitzroy ROP project. **Denise Johnson, Natasha Van Manen** and Mackay DPI Fisheries personnel are collecting data on riparian vegetation and freshwater fish for the same project. **Michelle Winning** and **Chris M.** are reviewing the methods for analysing benthic metabolism data and will look at implementing these methods into the Fitzroy ROP project.

Jon Marshall between time working on the analysis of data and a review for the Condamine-Balonne Environmental flows project is undertaking fieldwork collecting bugs for the CRC Dryland Refugium project with Griffith University. **Glenn** and **Jon** recently presented results from the Cooper and Warrego catchments on waterhole macroinvertebrate and algal biodiversity at the CRCFE Dryland Refugium Project Review.

Glenn and **Jaye** as well as helping out with the fieldwork schedules are still flatout counting dots and dashes from samples of the water storages around the state. **Glenn** is also concentrating on setting up a NAP salinity and a cyanotoxin project to start immediately. Both **Glenn** and **Jaye** also recently presented at the 5th Australian Algal Workshop.

Satish Choy has been working feverishly in providing input to the Jackie King and Cullen reviews of freshwater research in Qld and in particular the Condamine-Balonne catchment. He has also been setting up collaboration on salinity projects and co-ordinating the Departments input into the development of new research portfolios in the CRC Freshwater Ecology and the Coastal CRC.

New Queensland regional AusRivAS models have been developed by the CRCFE in Canberra and are currently being reviewed and assessed by **Diane** and **Satish** to see how they compare to the statewide models we have used previously. Several presentations on the subject were jointly given (with Environment Australia and Uni. of Tasmania) at the 5th International River Symposium in Brisbane. A poster was also presented at the recent Lake Eyre Basin conference.

There have been recent crocodiles safety concerns about the Rocklea staff sampling in the tropical regions of the state. This concern was expressed on the ASL list server and a number of responses were received. Consultation with crocodile experts from EPA and other institutions were undertaken to draft a crocodile WH&S protocol. As a result all staff from the unit undertook crocodile awareness training at Australia Zoo (i.e. Steve Irwin„s abode) and by Crikey a good time was had by all. If any one is interested in the draft protocol you can contact **Annette Ritchie** who spent many hours collating information and putting it together. (Annette.Ritchie@ nrm.qld.gov.au).

A media frenzy has taken hold of the unit with the crocodile awareness training making it into several television and radio news stories and also getting a mention in the state parliamentary question time. Also **Pete** and **Jaye** have been seen on all the regional television stations around the state in a water awareness advertisement for the Qld government.

Finally along with a new name we have had in the past year it looks like we may have new accommodation as the unit has evolved to be too big to fit into the current building and attached donger. Although this sounds like a huge move it is in fact just to the building next door here at Rocklea and all contact details should be the same. This is a temporary move with the unit moving to the CSIRO buildings at Indooroopilly sometime late next year.

Merry Christmas from Rocklea.

Till next time.

Pete Negus

INFORMATION FROM AND FOR MEMBERS

The International Year of Freshwater, 2003

The 2003 National Conference of the United Nations Association of Australia will be held over two-days in Perth (WA) on 26 and 27 September 2003. The theme of the conference is Fresh Water: *We'll all drink to that!*, with a focus to highlight the importance of establishing and maintaining fresh water resources.

Please note that Saturday 22nd March 2003 is World Water Day.

Formation of Australian Water Partnership group (OzWP) within the Global Water Partnership (GWP)

I recently attended a meeting discussing the formation of an Australian Water Partnership group within the Global Water Partnership (GWP) in Melbourne. GWP is an international network of various organisations involved in water resource management with the mission to support countries in the sustainable management of their water resources (emphasising „integrated water resources management„- IWRM).

A toolbox consisting of case studies in IWRM is a major feature on their website (www.gwpforum.org), and part of the intention for starting an Australian group is to contribute Australian case-studies to this tool box, as well as provide a brokerage role related to water management issues in Australia. Chris Davis (AWA) and Beris Gwynne (FDC) have obtained seeding funding from Environment Australia to start off OzWP and have been looking for representatives of groups with stakes in water affairs to participate on a steering committee to set up OzWP. This steering committee is to develop a framework of how OzWP can and should function in Australia. At present I am representing ASL on this steering committee. Any ASL member with questions or any interest in this is endeavour is encouraged to look at GWPs website and please contact me if you would like to have some input.

Sabine.Schreiber@nre.vic.gov.au
Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, PO Box 137, Heidelberg 3083.

Wetlands Watch

Wetlands Watch is a 66 page (plus appendices) field guide produced by the NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group, that has been designed for landholders and community groups to carry out monitoring of wetlands on their land. As well as providing general information about wetlands and their importance to the health of rivers, the guide includes some general methods, and recording sheets, for monitoring various aspects of wetlands.

The field guide booklet is available to purchase for $5.00 by contacting either Deborah Nias or Trish Alexander (Project Officers, NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group), on phone (02) 6023 1822, or by sending an email to: dnias@dlwc.nsw.gov.au or talexander@dlwc.nsw.gov.au

Lloyd, P. & Alexander, P. (2002). Wetlands Watch: A Field Guide for Monitoring Wetlands in the Southern Section of the Murray-Darling Basin

Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring reports

Two reports on these topics are available from the address below. The two reports focus on Asia but are applicable elsewhere. They contain an outline of recent developments in models for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring as encouraged under the Ramsar Wetlands Convention and supported by experience and analyses done by WI and partners.

Wetlands International in Kuala Lumpur - contact wiap@wiap.nasionet.net or www.wetlands.org

Murugadas TL 2002. Developing a proposed frameworkfor a wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring system (WIAMS) in Malaysia. Wetlands international Malaysia programme, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. 188 pp

Finlayson et al 2002. A manual for an inventory of Asian wetlands.Wetlands International Global Series 10, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 72 pp.

Max Finlayson [Max.Finlayson@ea.gov.au

WATERMARK 2003

WATERMARK 2003, is an International Nature Writers„ Muster, to be held from 5 fr 11 October 2003 at the Camden Haven Adult and Community Education Inc, Laurieton NSW.

If you are interested in attending or assisting with WATERMARK please contact Lyndal Coote (lcoote@ tsn.cc); Phone (02) 6559 6699 or Fax (02) 6559 6727.

Data Sheet: Freshwater Fishes of South Eastern South Australia

This 8 page brochure aims to help identify and understand the freshwater fishes of the south east; show the uniqueness and importance of these aquatic fauna; highlight potential threats to native fish; and source of additional information. Further information from Lisa Wilkins, Department of Environment and Heritage, phone (08) 8755 3166.

Global recognition for Riverina wetlands after ten years of effort

Two swamps in the heart of the Riverina's irrigated rice and cereal croplands have been formally recognised as Wetlands of International Importance by the world's peak wetlands conservation treaty the Ramsar Convention .

The addition of Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps, near Leeton in New South Wales, to the global register of internationally significant wetlands was announced on 27 November, in Valencia, Spain at the eighth Ramsar conference.

The Ramsar listing is the culmination of over ten years work by local naturalists to secure protection for the swamps which are home to thousands of waterbirds, including threatened species such as the freckled duck, brolga, painted snipe and blue-billed duck. "WWF Australia has worked closely with the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists and the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands Management Trust to support actions to achieve global conservation status for these wetlands and their spectacular birdlife," said Dr David Butcher, WWF Australia CEO. "In 1995, Fivebough Swamp was to be irrevocably damaged by a proposal to construct a recreational lake which would have taken away up to a third of the surface area of the swamp. The proposal would have possibly added to existing salinity problems and probably also have breached a cap on Murray Darling Basin water diversions."

Dr Butcher said the Ramsar listing was a fitting reward for the enormous amount of research, environmental restoration, planning and conservation management which the Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists and other members of the local community had invested in the two sites. "This is proof that community conservation action works and can achieve positive results at the very highest levels," he said.

Both Fivebough and Tuckerbil Swamps have long been recognised as important sites for birdlife, with waterbird records for both sites dating back to 1900. During a recent ornithological survey of 360 wetlands in the Murray Darling Basin, Fivebough Swamp recorded the highest number of waterbird species (83) and Tuckerbil Swamp recorded the second highest number of species (69). The swamps are also important feeding and resting grounds for migratory birds. The glossy ibis, which is listed under the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species, has been recorded in large numbers (20,000) at Fivebough Swamp. Tuckerbil Swamp is also a significant historic and cultural site for the Wiradjuri people. Stone tools, ground ovens and pieces of grinding dishes have been found there, as well as burial sites. Australia now has 63 Ramsar listed wetlands: these include Kakadu National Park, the Gippsland Lakes, Barmah Forest, the Kerang Wetlands and the Cobourg Peninsula.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is an intergovernmental treaty, and is the oldest international conservation agreement which promotes sustainable use and has 133 member nations with 1,200 wetlands sites listed. The total area of wetlands listed under the Treaty is 103.3 million ha.

Draft native fish strategy for the Murray-Darling Basin 2002-2012

The rehabilitation of rapidly declining native fish communities back to 60% of their estimated pre-European settlement levels is the goal of the Murray- Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) Draft Native Fish Management Strategy. With current numbers estimated to be 10% and declining, fish species population is an indicator of the overall health of the Basin and its rivers and provides a warning that the natural ecological functioning of the rivers is at risk.

The Strategy involves six driving actions to restore native fish populations including: zoning rivers for priority; rehabilitation of native fish habitat; environmental flows for recovery of fish habitat; fish passages on riverine structures; control of carp and other alien fish species; protection of threatened native fish species; and management of fish translocation and stocking. Much of the problem involves environmental flows or the amount of water required to maintain healthy river habitats and ecosystems. Individuals, communities and industry have been asked to comment on the draft strategy and to contribute to actions that will ensure rehabilitation of native fish populations (closing date for submissions in 31st December 2002). Further information is available on the website http://www.mdbc.gov.au

The End Result of Water Reform

The National Competition Council has released a research paper examining the future of the water industry once the national water reforms are in place. The paper found that it would be a considerable time before the full benefits of all the reforms are realised, especially the environmental outcomes, but some reforms were already showing tangible benefits.

The paper predicted that the water industry would remain predominantly publicly owned, and wastewater treatment and disposal and recycling activities will form a larger component of the industry. The costs of water reform to GDP, such as diversion of water to the environment, could be confined if more efficient use of water compensates for the loss of supply. The paper, A Viable and Sustainable Water Industry, can be downloaded at http://www.ncc.gov.au

Inventories of Freshwater Ecosystems

My review of Australian inventories of freshwater ecosystems has been completed (edition one status - 30 pages). It should provide a useful educational / research tool. It is available at http://www.users.bigpond.com/jon.nevill/Australian_fw_inventories.doc

A number of readers have commented that the document would be useful if published in hard-copy form. If you have any ideas on how this might be achieved, please email me.

Jon Nevill, Phone 0418 550 265 www.onlyoneplanet.com.au

FreshwaterLife

FreshwaterLife is a collaborative project that brings together information on freshwater organisms, methods, identification and specialists from around the world. We are collating this information and making it available via the internet. FreshwaterLife will also provide opportunities for those involved in the field of freshwater to communicate, collaborate and discuss. I hope that you find FreshwaterLife an interesting idea. If you would like to participate, or show your support for the concept, a registration form is available online at <http://www.freshwaterlife.org/feedback/registration.htm> web-site at <http://www.freshwaterlife.org> www.freshwaterlife.org

Uncertainty Over Audit Future

The final summary report of the $35 million, five-year National Land and Water Resources Audit has been released, providing a collation of the major findings of the four-year audit and recommendations for future collection and management of natural resource management information. A key recommendation of the report is that an independent, statutory information agency should be established to coordinate the collection of natural resource data, provide information, undertake mandated assessment of progress, review and fine-tune major programs and develop new initiatives.

The report, Australia's Natural Resources 1997-2002 and Beyond, highlights the need for Australia, through partnerships and contributions across government, industry and the community, to increase its investment in data collection and collation, the provision of information and its application, and making it available at a cost of transfer, for use by the community and industry.

Wetland inventories for South Australia

Over the last two years, National Parks and Wildlife SA has completed a series of wetland inventories. These inventories aimed to record a representive sample of inland waterbodies. The reports can be viewed at: http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/biodiversity/ecocons.html

Summary findings include:

Kangaroo Island

* One of the few remaining regions in South Australia with inland freshwater wetlands in good condition.
* Twenty-six wetlands were surveyed, nineteen sites were recorded as saline lakes and two wetlands classified as freshwater.
* Good invertebrate trophic levels were recorded for most wetlands with clear correlation between water conductivity and invertebrate diversity.

* Sixteen wetlands are of national importance by meeting the ANZECC criteria of being a good example of a wetland type occurring within a biogeographical region in Australia.

Northern Agricultural Districts

* Twenty-nine wetlands were surveyed with the majority being saline and brackish waterbodies.
* Nelshaby Reserve near Port Pirie was the only freshwater wetland recorded.
* The aquatic invertebrate fauna was notably scarce in the most wetlands and the correlation between increasing salinity and decreasing biodiversity is of concern for the health of many wetlands.
* The saline lake systems in Innes National Park are an important wetland type occurring within a biogeographical region in Australia.

Eyre Peninsula

* Twenty-seven wetlands were surveyed on Eyre Peninsula,
* Much like the Northern Agricultural Districts, the aquatic invertebrate fauna was scarce in most wetlands due to the high conductivity.
* The saline lake systems in Lincoln National Park (Pillie Lake and Sleaford Mere) are important wetlands within a biogeographical region in Australia.

Mount Lofty Ranges

* Eighty-five wetlands were surveyed which included brackish waterbodies, freshwater wetlands, bogs, swamps and constructed wetlands.
* The aquatic invertebrate fauna generally displayed good diversity and abundance in many wetlands surveyed.
* Fourteen wetlands surveyed are considered to be of national importance; this includes the wetlands in Cleland Conservation Park.

Russell Seaman, Ramsar Habitat Mapping Program , National Parks and Wildlife SA
seaman.russell@saugov.sa.gov.au

Centre for Environmental Sustainability

As part of our commitment to the environment we are seeking to enlist the aid of the community at large and specialists in addressing the growing number of ecological problems in Australia today our areas of interest include:

- sustainability in fields of climate change, ethical investment, corporate responsibility, sustainable industries, renewable energy
- provide strategic support and advice to corporate clients and partners including environmental impact statements, loss assessment, natural resource mapping, and feasabillity studies.
- commitment to social and environmental change
- provide of strategic environmental and sustainability advice to government and private industry.

We are also seeking input into our new website if you have ideas or inclusions that you would like to offer please email us at inquiries@ ihug.com.au

Current Projects:
Audit Colo River Commencing 3 rd November 2002
Audit Darling Murray River Commencing 14 th January 2003 - 30 th April 2003

To become a member (Membership is free) or for further information about joining please email membership@ ihug.com.au. For further details about becoming an affiliate or consultant or to simply have a link to your site please email links&affiliations@ ihug.com.au. For all general enquiries or to find out more please email inquiries@ ihug.com.au

100 wetlands receive practical revitalisation - Media Release (25 October 2002)

Conservation Volunteers Australia and BHP Billiton are celebrating National Water Week by announcing the 100th wetland to receive practical revitalisation through the **Revive our Wetlands** program.

Two years ago, Conservation Volunteers Australia and BHP Billiton created Revive our Wetlands - an ambitious program to help address the ongoing loss of one of Australia‚s most important ecosystems. Both partners agreed to contribute skills, knowledge and resources to undertake 100 wetlands rehabilitation projects.

Appropriately, the 100th site, on the outskirts of Gisborne Victoria, is home to a population of Growling Grass Frogs listed as vulnerable under the Environment Protection & Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. This project typifies the **Revive** program, which aims to restore fragile environments and combat threats to Australia‚s biodiversity.

With drought affecting much of Australia and water restrictions anticipated for most capital cities the importance of wetland rehabilitation and caring for our water catchments is vital and must be ongoing.

Many of the 100 **Revive** wetlands are in the 21 priority regions under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality. The National Action Plan focuses on the importance of working in partnership and it states:

‡Partnership arrangements between stakeholders ensure a united effort to make a difference. Land managers, industry organisations, catchment groups, Landcare groups, environmental organisations and indigenous people, as well as Commonwealth, State and local governments will join forces.·

Revive our Wetlands is a perfect example of working in partnership. Bringing together Australia‚s largest practical conservation organisation and a global resources company, 100 wetland management agencies, volunteers, school groups and BHP Billiton employees volunteering on projects - **Revive our Wetlands** has been able to make a difference.

In quantifiable terms more than 13,000 volunteer days have removed 502 hectares of weeds, hundreds of bags of rubbish and 180 kilograms of carp; planted of 80,000 native plants; undertaken 60 flora and fauna surveys; erected 35 kilometres of new fences, maintained 30 kilometres of walking tracks and constructed 6 kilometres of new tracks and undertaken many other rehabilitation activities.

Revive has created employment with a national coordinator and nine local wetlands project officers employed and trained, providing a sustainable legacy to Australian communities. **Revive** has already resulted in additional grants and new funding commitments resulting in an extra two weeks of work for each week of a Revive funded project.

Revive has also created heightened public awareness and greater understanding of the importance of wetlands habitats, catchment management and water quality through direct involvement, 230 published media articles, 30 public displays, a range of Revive merchandise and a quarterly newsletter.

Conservation Volunteers Australia is focused on extending the positive results from **Revive**.

‡**Revive our Wetlands** is helping to revitalizing 100 of Australia‚s important wetlands. By building local support and capacity for restoring and rehabilitating wetlands **Revive** helps to turn the tide against ongoing wetland loss. This is the realisation of a ten year vision for us and a huge boost for the Australian environment,· said Colin Jackson, CEO Conservation Volunteers Australia.

For BHP Billiton, **Revive** is part of a commitment to making a positive contribution to the communities in which the company operates, it also reflects the importance of water management for the company.

Graham Evans, Vice President Government and Community Relations BHP Billiton said ‡Water management is critical to BHP Billiton businesses and approximately 15% of the Revive wetlands are near those businesses. At least 500 of our employees and their families have volunteered on a **Revive** project, giving them the opportunity to make a personal commitment to environmental rehabilitation and to demonstrate that everyone is able to contribute to the conservation of the Australian environment.·

Libby McIntyre, Revive Our Wetlands, Conservation Volunteers Australia
Mobile 0429 019 309
www.reviveourwetlands.net

Proposed water allocations for the Gwydir inadequate

According to WWF Australia, the Gwydir River Management Committee's proposed water allocation for the Gwydir catchment is inadequate. Sarah Moles, WWF Australia's Wetland Conservation Officer, stated that unless the proposed 45 gigalitre environmental contingency allocation (ECA) for the catchment was more than doubled, birds nesting in the wetlands would be unable to complete their breeding cycles and populations would decline. An allocation of 100 gigalitres is needed.

The full media release can be viewed at http://www.wwf.org.au

Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meeting held in Adelaide

The 32nd Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council meeting was held in Adelaide on Friday 1 November. In the absence of a quorum, those present at the meeting agreed to make a statement of outcomes including:

- The MDBC to be directed to investigate short & long term options for water supply flexibility under extreme drought conditions;
- The Council will continue with new cost-sharing arrangements and the allocation of salinity credits under a $60 million salt interception program contributed to by the Commonwealth and southern Basin states; and,
- The Council agreed to recommendations from the Living Murray initiative's Independent Community Engagement Panel and the Community Advisory Committee for a broader approach to community engagement and the need to accelerate discussions on options for water recovery, including where any environmental flow water will come from.

For the full statement of outcomes from the meeting, visit http://www.mdbc.gov.au/whatson/mcouncil-32.htm.

National Action Plan Roundtable

The first annual National Action Plan roundtable was held in Mildura from October 27-30. The roundtable which was opened by Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson, was attended by approximately 170 individuals, primarily from regional organisations and Commonwealth and State agencies. Issues discussed included EMS, market based instruments and available information and data tools.

Further information on the event is available at http://www.napswq.gov.au

Lake Victoria Cultural Landscape Plan of Management Launched

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission has launched the Lake Victoria Cultural Landscape Plan of Management which is the culmination of many years of consultation with key groups and individuals, including the Barkindji people, local landholders and other water users. According to the MDBC, the plan ensures that Lake Victoria remains a vital River Murray storage site while preserving Aboriginal burial sites and significant cultural heritage values as well as rehabilitating the environment. See http://www.mdbc.gov.au/naturalresources/policies_strategies/projectscreens/lakeproject.htm

New Resources

* Fish and fish habitat of the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin * an illustrated guide to the northern Basin's fisheries and aquatic habitats. Free copies can be obtained by calling the QDPI call centre on 132523 in QLD or (07) 3404 6999 from elsewhere in Australia.

* Victorian Stormwater Education Manual (produced by the City of Greater Geelong, Waterwatch Victoria with Victorian EPA) * this curriculum document is targeted at upper primary and lower secondary schools. It contains information and activities with a focus on water quality issues, human activities affecting stormwater and how to be involved in stormwater management. The manual costs $25 * contact Paul Puhar at Waterwatch Victoria on 03 9412 4072 to secure a copy.

* A new Waterwatch NSW website has been launched go to http://www.waterwatch.nsw.gov.au to check it out.

Valuing Non-Market Goods

I have recently finished my research, which involved developing a new or modified approach to the economic conundrum of valuing non-market (unpriced) goods, typically environmental goods and services. The research involved a surrogate market, a multi-model multiple criteria analysis, a Delphi inquiry for expert consensus, and conceptual models for ecosystem services. If any of you are interested in this topic, you can access the results on the following URL: http://www.rainforest-crc.jcu.edu.au/quest

The benefit of this method is application to current problems using existing preferences, rather than having to do a survey to get them. Can be applied to impacts of proposals to arrive at a pecuniary measure for compensation/mitigation etc. Also as a value-added comparison to costs of restoration projects. I would be interested in any comments.

Regards,

Ian A Curtis BSc(Hons)
School of Tropical Environmental Science and Geography, James Cook University, Cairns Campus
McGregor Road, Smithfield., Phone: 07 4042 1470, Fax: 07 4042 1284

The **Second Edition of the Australian Environment Directory** is a 412 page guide to the environment sector at Federal and State levels, allowing readers to quickly identify which departments and agencies are responsible for programs and relevant legislation. The programs include air quality, catchment management, greenhouse, renewable energy, salinity, land, coastal and marine management. More than 700 organisations, research bodies, and educational institutions are listed in this comprehensive directory. If you would like more details about these publications please send an

email to hallmark@halledit.com.au to the attention of Ruth or order through our website at www.halledit.com.au

Water Resources and River Health Take Centre Stage

The management of Australia's water resources and rehabilitation of its degraded river systems have become issues of top priority for the Federal Government, with the Prime Minister, John Howard, indicating that he wants to establish a ‚nation building„project to tackle critical problems next year.

The Government's interest in the issue has been heightened by proposals for major infrastructure projects put forward by the Pratt Water Group and by the advice of a group of leading scientists who are calling for nation-wide reforms including improved agricultural practices, a more tightly controlled water licensing system and the investment of $20 billion over 10 years to restore degraded land. The Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, has announced the Government's support in principle for a feasibility study, proposed by the Pratt Water Group, into the causes of water loss from irrigation systems and possible water savings projects in the Murrumbidgee Valley.

New NSW Water Catchment Information Databases Released

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) has released a series of four CD-ROMS that present for the first time information about creeks, rivers and wetlands in major catchment areas. The Water Information System for the Environment (WISE) CD-ROMs provide a complete snapshot of the ecology, history and culture of the Namoi, Barwon-Darling, Gwydir and Hacking River catchments.

The resources would be of interest to anyone interested in studying and conserving water, such as scientists, environmentalists, students, landcare groups or catchment committees, NPWS Director Bob Conroy said.

The CD-ROMs allow users to 'see' catchments via sound and video clips, photographs and maps. Information is available about more than 300 subjects of interest, including water quality, flora, fauna, cultural resources and paleontology. For information about how to purchase any of the CD-ROMs phone the NPWS on 1300 361 967 or go to http://wiscrivers.npws.nsw.gov.au to access the databases online.

Status of Storages on the River Murray System

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) has released an update on the status of storages within the River Murray system. This update includes information on water storage, water supply and current and forecast water quality issues.

With the drought severely impacting on both dryland and irrigation farmers and consequently the broader community across the Basin, the MDBC is working closely with Commonwealth and State Governments to ensure least disruption to the water supply system.

MDBC will continue to provide regular updates on the status of storages and water supply. The update can be found on the home page of the MDBC web site http://www.mdbc.gov.au/ under the heading River Murray System Update.

FASTS

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR "SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT"(30 SEPTEMBER)

Dear President

"Science meets Parliament" Day Tuesday-Wednesday November 12-13

Earlier this year I announced that "Science meets Parliament" Day will be on November 12-13. The event is a wonderful opportunity for scientists and technologists to put the case for science to their MPs.

Among the science and research issues Parliament will be considering are the Higher Education Review, priority research areas and triennium funding for Government-funded research agencies. These are all matters where the science community has well-considered views.

FASTS is arranging for scientists to meet directly with Parliamentarians. In this unique event, pairs of scientists will visit MPs and Senators at Parliament House in Canberra to press the importance of the national investment in science and technology.

"Science meets Parliament" Day runs over two days. The first day is devoted to discussions on strategy, tactics and ideas and is based at the National Press Club; and on the second day, participating scientists will meet their Parliamentary representatives.

Science-industry dinner - new feature

A new feature this year is a special dinner on Wednesday 13 November, in the dignified and atmospheric Members' Dining Room at Old Parliament House. Guests will be drawn from three groups: from participating scientists, from business and industry, and from selected Parliamentarians. The after-dinner speaker is Mr Bob Herbert of the AIG.

This dinner is an optional extra for participants who would like to build dialogue with MPs and industry.

The good features remain

Again we are planning a high-profile speaker to deliver a keynote address at the National Press Club on Tuesday's Briefing Day. Speaker this year is Dr Keith Williams, CEO of Proteome Systems Ltd. His company has rapidly expanded to be one of the world forces in proteomics, and employs about 60 PhD graduates.

And again we have organised a cocktail reception at Parliament House on the evening of Tuesday 12 November. The Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and the Minister for Education, Science and Training have been invited to address this event, an important opportunity for scientists, sponsors and Parliamentarians to meet informally.

Articulate scientists needed

We need articulate scientists and technologists from around Australia to come to Canberra to give first hand accounts to Parliamentarians of good science, the opportunities this work creates, and how

more of the benefits of research could be captured. The event has been a success in previous years because of the involvement of our Member Societies.

FASTS is looking for enthusiastic and personable people who can present persuasive arguments to Parliamentarians. Ideally they will represent a cross-section of Australian science by gender, age and discipline.

Networking opportunities
Last year the biotechnologists and nanotechnologists took advantage of the event to organise networking meetings on the Tuesday morning, before the main event began. Other groups (such as the Council of Deans of Science and the Australian Geoscience Council) organised their regular meetings to coincide with SmP, and this enabled them to participate in force.

we have also arranged for meeting rooms at Old Parliament House on Wednesday. The best time for meetings that day would be immediately after lunch. You will need to book the rooms through Robyn Easton in the FASTS office, and there may be a small charge.

Previous participants have said the networking opportunities alone are worth the price of admission.

Free registration for Presidents
I would like to invite you to register for the event on a complementary basis, as President of your society. This is a courtesy to you as President and this invitation is not transferable. Please indicate on the registration form under "any comments, special advice" that you are registering as President.

How to register
The most convenient and secure way to register is on our web site: www.fasts.org.

Please note that participants must be a member of a Society affiliated with FASTS, and that participation is a benefit of membership. The registration fee includes National Press Club lunch, the Cocktail Reception at Parliament House; and breakfast and lunch on the day of Parliamentary appointments. The dinner is an optional extra.

FASTS Council meeting

Council will be held on Thursday November 14 min Canberra, from 9 am to 1 pm. All Presidents of Member Societies (or their nominees) are invited. This is an important opportunity for all Societies to feed into FASTS' priorities; and I will be writing to you with more information.

I look forward to seeing you in Canberra for this important event.

Yours sincerel

Chris Fell
President

Science meets Parliament Day 2002 - the Program
(Please note: some speakers to be confirmed)

Tuesday November 12

9.00am
Registration opens at National Press Club, Coffee, tea on arrival
Sponsoring organisations and registrants are invited to organise special interest meetings in the morning.

12 Noon
NPC Luncheon, with televised address. Please be seated before 12.20 pm.

1.00pm
Address by Dr Keith Williams, CEO Proteomics Ltd, followed by questions from the media.

2.00pm
Address concludes. Short break while the room is cleared.

2.20pm
Parliamentary briefing: Science and the Party Room
Panel discussion with science spokespersons for the four parties:
Dr Brendan Nelson, Government
Senator Kim Carr, Opposition
Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja, Democrats
Senator Bob Brown, Greens.
Chair: Margo Kingston, Sydney Morning Herald

3.15pm
View from Foreign Shores, Sir Robert May President, Royal Society

3.45pm
The issues of the Day, Professor Chris Fell, President of FASTS

4.05pm

The view from DEST

4.20pm

Communicating with Parliamentarians, A prominent lobbyist

4.45pm
Communicating with Parliamentarians: the view of the staffer Catherine Murphy, office of Brendan Nelson, and Andrew Reeves, office of Senator Kim Carr.

5.15pm
The view from the Top
Dr Robin Batterham, Chief Scientist

5.30pm

Close. Make own way to Parliament House (walk, bus, drive, taxi)

6.00pm
Cocktail Reception, the Members' Hall, Parliament House, for participating scientists.
This is hosted by the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate and the Minister for Education, Science and Training. All Parliamentarians have been invited.

Wednesday 13 November

7am
Breakfast at Old Parliament House, Final briefing, Q & A opportunity

8.00am
First appointments at Parliament House
(Scientists with early appointments should make their own travel arrangements to Parliament House.)

8.20am
Walk up hill to Parliament House commences

9.0am
Appointments with Parliamentarians continue

9.15am
Hon Simon Crean MP, Leader of the Opposition, meets the scientists. Main Committee Room, Parliament House

10.00am
Press Conference, Professor Chris Fell

A panel of young scientists participating in the event. Theme: what it is like to be a young scientist in Australia today? Room 2S2, Parliament House

11.00am
Morning tea with the Minister Hon Peter McGauran, Minister for Science Main Committee Room, Parliament House

12 noon
Lunch and debriefing at Old Parliament House

From 1.30 to 3.30pm
Sponsoring organisations and registrants are invited to organise special interest meetings in the afternoon at Old Parliament House.

4.00pm
Appointments with Parliamentarians continue

7.00 pm
Science and Industry Dinner at Old Parliament House
Address by Bob Herbert, CEO of Australian Industry Group
Vote of thanks by Dr Geoff Garrett, CEO CSIRO

For information: Toss Gascoigne (02) 6257 2891, 0408 704 442

FASTS: Launch of Occasional Paper 5 (11 October 2002)

Dear Presidents

On behalf of Chris Fell, I would like to invite you to attend the launch of the fifth in a series of Occasional Papers published by FASTS.

The paper is called "Indoor Air Quality in Australia: a strategy for action".

This will be at 11.15 am on Thursday 17 October at Parliament House in Canberra, in Room 1R1.

Environment Minister Dr David Kemp will address the group.

Tea and coffee will be served, and the media will be invited.

If you are able to attend or would like to nominate another member of your Society, please respond to the FASTS office by email. We need to provide Parliament House with a list of all guests in advance because the launch will be in a secure area.

Regards

For information: Toss Gascoigne (02) 6257 2891, 0408 704 442

FASTS: The Issues MPs Choose (15 October 2002)

The big issues for "Science meets Parliament" Day

On our invitation to meet scientists on Wednesday 13 November, we invited all Parliamentarians to nominate issues they would like to discuss in their meetings.

They were invited to choose as many as they liked, and responses so far show the following as the most commonly nominated:

23	Salinity
20	Water quality
20	Energy sources of the future
20	Education and training - school, university and industry
18	Commercialisation, innovation, industry research
17	Climate, climate change and greenhouse
17	Agriculture and agribusiness
17	Sustainability and the triple bottom line
14	Environment and biodiversity
13	Health and medical issues
11	Science in the local electorate
11	Emerging technologies: nanotechnology, photonics, bioinformatics
10	Medical and agricultural biotechnology: benefits and risks
10	Broadband, Telstra and the bush
8	Brain drain, recruiting
8	Oceans and the Great Barrier Reef
8	Stem cells and tissue engineering
7	Nuclear power, and storage and disposal of radioactive waste
7	Mining and resource industries and exploration
7	Defence science and biosecurity
6	Feral animals, noxious weeds and quarantine

It's an interesting list of the big issues in Australian public life!

There is still time to register for the event, which is on Tuesday-Wednesday November 12-13.

Details and registration forms are available on the FASTS web site: www.fasts.org

Regards

For information: Toss Gascoigne (02) 6257 2891, 0408 704 442

RESPONSE TO ALP SCIENCE PAPER (29 OCTOBER 2002)

Science and Technology for the Social, Environmental and Economic Benefit of Australia

29.10.02

Australia's peak council for scientists and technologists has welcomed the ALP policy discussion paper on science as a worthwhile contribution to the debate.

Dr David Denham, Vice-President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) said that at first glance the paper contains some interesting new ideas.

"It's a welcome statement of intent," he said. "But in a sense, much of it has been said before. There are not a lot of new ideas in science policy.

"What would be new would be a commitment to lift Australian investment in science and research to the levels of comparable countries. In many ways we know what the problem is, and where the solution lies.

Dr Denham said the ALP paper suggested an increase in the national investment. It talks about the 'urgent need of reinvestment and renewal' in Australian universities, and higher salaries for Australian academics.

"This will tackle one part of the problem that is driving our researchers overseas," he said. "It's a combination of factors - the lure of better facilities and the offer of research support funding as well as salaries."

Dr Denham said that FASTS would be "very cautious" about adopting the British Research Assessment Exercise, as a way of evaluating Australian universities. He described as "an idea worth developing" the proposal to establish a bureau of science and research policy within DEST, to be responsible for ensuring Commonwealth research targets are met.

"We have long been concerned about the lack of an effective 'whole-of-government' approach to science, and we'd like to know the detail of this proposal," he said.

He said FASTS was attracted by the idea of placing more emphasis on the quality of the research outputs, by measures such as revamping the formula for Infrastructure Block Grants in universities.

Another interesting suggestion was public consultation to 'the widest possible range' in setting research priorities. "In our view this is a crucial step - the general public has not been consulted on science priorities," he said. "I am not sure that people see the connection between investing in science today, and jobs for them tomorrow.

"Until governments see strong public support for increasing the level of the national investment in science and research, it is hard for them to commit extra funding.

"The truth is that Australia is lagging badly by any international comparison. The pain will be felt by the next generations as job opportunities slowly dry up."

Dr Denham said that FASTS would now examine the paper in detail.

For information: Toss Gascoigne (02) 6257 2891, 0408 704 442

REBEL WITH A CAUSE: MAKING A GLOBAL BUSINESS OF PROTEOMICS (9 NOVEMBER 2002)

Until four years ago, Keith Williams was a Professor of Biology at Macquarie University in Sydney.

Now he heads Proteome Systems, a Sydney-based company that has built world leadership by defying conventional wisdom. He deals internationally with major companies like IBM, and his company employs 40 PhDs.

In an address to the National Press Club on Tuesday 12 November, Dr Williams will describe how he transformed from being an eccentric but entrepreneurial Professor at Macquarie University in Sydney, to an international player in the rapidly-moving world of proteomics.

His work has revolved around the study of proteins, pioneering a new approach to establishing the link between genes, proteins and disease. This has major implications for the design of new drugs.

On the way his team (Marc Wilkins) invented a new term - proteomics - now in the Webster and Oxford Dictionaries and one of the hottest words in biology.

What were the crucial steps to success? Why did Proteome Systems succeed where others failed? What has he learned along the way?

Dr Williams' address will launch "Science meets Parliament" Day, an annual event which brings 150 scientists to Canberra for one-on-one meetings with Federal Parliamentarians.

The event is organised by FASTS, a peak council representing 60,000 working scientists and technologists in Australia.

Dr Williams says he made a clean break when he left Macquarie University.

"You need to be prepared to take the big jump," he said. "Halfway measures don't work - and anyway, the rules in our universities don't encourage scientists to become commercial."

Professor Chris Fell, President of FASTS, said Australia needs more scientist-entrepreneurs.

"Australians do great science, but our record of commercialising these discoveries is very ordinary," he said. "Sometimes our systems seem actively to discourage people like Keith Williams. They force entrepreneurial scientists to step outside the system, instead of supporting and nurturing them."

Media are invited to the National Press Club on Tuesday 12 November. The speech will not be televised.

The full program of events for "Science meets Parliament" Day is available at: www.fasts.org

For interview: Keith Williams (02) 8877 8947

For information: Toss Gascoigne (02) 6257 2891, 0408 704 442

SCIENCE-INDUSTRY DINNER KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY AIG'S BOB HERBERT (11 NOVEMBER 2002)

Bob Herbert, Chief Executive Officer of Australian Industry Group (Ai Group), is the keynote speaker at a dinner bringing together scientists, members of Federal Parliament, and industry.

He will make the after-dinner speech at a function in the Members' Dining Room at Old Parliament House on Wednesday 13 November. His address will bring to an end this year's "Science meets Parliament" Day (SmP).

Mr Herbert will make a number of announcements in his speech including an alliance between AI Group and CSIRO to improve links between industry and science and the establishment of the Australian Industry InnovationXchange.

Professor Chris Fell, President of FASTS, said that the balance of guests to the dinner was carefully calculated.

"We want to encourage the easy dialogue which so often leads to enterprising solutions," he said. "Industry, scientists and government have to work together as a team.

"We have to mix the ingredients and stir well if Australia is to become a modern economy."

He said he was delighted with the involvement of the Australia Industry Group, one of Australia's pre-eminent industry organisations.

"The idea for the dinner came from industry sources,, from the Australian Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association," he said. "We see this as a welcome advance in the dialogue between scientists and industry, and Government is the third vital ingredient."

Dr Geoff Garrett, Chief Executive Officer of CSIRO, will respond to Mr Herbert's address in his vote of thanks.

For further information on "Science meets Parliament" Day, contact: Toss Gascoigne

Ph (02) 6257 2891, 0408 704 442

For a full program of "Science meets Parliament" Day, see: www.fasts.org

For a media kit including sections of Mr Herbert's speech, contact:
Wendy Farrow
Ph (02) 94665422, or 041 778 3388, Wendy.farrow@ innovationxchange.com.au

Toss Gascoigne, Executive Director, FASTS Email: fasts@anu.edu.au

"My Life as a Young Scientist in Australia" (11 November 2002)

What is it like being a young scientist in Australia today?

Does Australia look after its young scientists, with secure jobs, enough funding to do research, good facilities, adequate pay and an established career path?

Or is it still a case of young scientists being offered a 'raw deal,' with good young scientists driven away from research by job insecurity and lack of long-term career paths?

Five young scientists will today (Wednesday) describe their life in research, at a media conference at Parliament House in Canberra.

They will give a first hand account of their career as working scientists, the challenges and the frustrations. How tempting are those job offers from overseas?

FASTS President Chris Fell will chair the conference.

"I'll be asking these five young scientists to describe what they do, and the potential of their work to impact on the lives of ordinary Australians," he said. "What new industries can they help create? What health problems can they solve?"

"Australians say they are very proud of the achievements of our scientists, but as a country sometimes we have a funny way of showing this.

"Young scientists hold the future of this country in their hands. It's important as a nation that we make the most of the benefits of their work."

The conference is part of "Science meets Parliament" Day, an event which brings 150 scientists into Canberra for one-on-one meetings with Parliamentarians.

The scientists are:

Wayne Rowlands, Swinburne University of Tech, Ph. (03) 9214 8142, wrowlands@swin.edu.au

Bronwyn Kingwell, Baker Medical Institute, Ph (03) 9276 3261, B.Kingwell@Alfred.org.au

John Sanderson, CRC for Clean Power from Lignite, Ph (03) 9545 8562, John.Sanderson@csiro.au

Michelle Watt, CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, Ph (02) 6246 4902, Michelle.Watt@csiro.au

Rachael Prince, Swinburne University of Technology, Ph (03) 9552 3546, rprince@swin.edu.au

The conference will be held in Room 2R1 at Parliament House, Canberra, at 10 am on Wednesday 13 November.

For information: Toss Gascoigne (02) 6257 2891, 0408 704 442

FASTS Elects New President-Elect (19 November 2002)

FASTS elects new Executive

Professor Snow Barlow has been elected President-elect of FASTS. He will join the Executive immediately, and begin his two-year term as President in November 2003.

The current President, Professor Chris Fell, is now half way through his two-year term of office.

Professor Fell welcomed the election of Professor Barlow. He said the position of President of FASTS was a pivotal one. "Water, new energy sources, the environment, the development of new industries - these are just some of the matters which occupy the minds of Australia's decision-makers, and all of them revolve around science," he said.

"Science is so important to Government, and FASTS is increasingly being called upon to provide the views of working scientists."

Professor Fell said that Professor Barlow's experience would stand him in good stead.

"Snow Barlow is a working scientist in areas such as water use and climate change," he said. "Members of Parliament nominated both these issues as being in the top five in our recent 'Science meets Parliament' Day event."

Professor Barlow is a member of a CRC, and has been on Boards or Committees for the R&D Corporations, the Academy of Science and the ARC. He has represented Australia at international treaty discussions on matters such as Greenhouse and Climate Change.

Professor Barlow regards this as a critical time for science in Australia.

"There are some big issues out there, including the involvement of industry in research investment," he said. "We have to address the morale and vitality of the higher education and research system, and to position science as a career of choice and acknowledged driver of the national economy."

Dr John O'Connor of the University of Newcastle is the other new member of the Executive. He was elected to the position of Secretary.

Professor Fell thanked retiring Executive members Jan Thomas and Peter French.

The full Executive is:

President:	Professor Chris Fell
President-elect:	Professor Snow Barlow
Vice-Presidents:	Dr David Denham
	Professor Rob Norris
Secretary:	Dr John O'Connor
Treasurer:	Dr John Rice
Chair Policy:	Dr Ken Baldwin

Toss Gascoigne, Executive Director, FASTS. Email: fasts@anu.edu.au

ASL WAS THERE..... AT THE FASTS MEETING THE DAY AFTER SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT

ASL was there÷ .
÷ ..at the FASTS meeting the day after Science meets Parliament.

The FASTS meeting, the day after Science meets Parliament consisted of the AGM, the Council meeting and the Board meeting and took up the entire day. I will not attempt to summarise the contents of it here; elsewhere in this newsletter you will find the minutes of this meeting. Rather, I will try to give a perspective on this from the interests of ASL. I attended the AGM and Council meeting as an observer, and was able to liaise with Dr. Maria Byrnes (AFMA), who did represent ASL together with a number of other organisations on the council.

FASTS is a unique federation, in which scientists from all walks of life are able to voice their interests and act as a lobby group to influence science policy development at federal ministerial level. Perhaps the most influential event organised by FASTS is Science Meets Parliament Day, which took place the day before the meeting and was a resounding success. The feedback from this event clearly highlighted this, despite the various comments on how things could have been done better. It appears that SmP, now in its fourth year, was perceived by MP„s as a forum for minds to meet, and as a way for politicians to get expert advice on science and education policy issues, rather than as a lobbying event. This was exemplified by the encouragement FASTS received from the Prime Minister and others to continue with the event in the future.

However, we have to remember that FASTS is really only possible to continue to work for its member organisations through continued member input. There is still much more work that member organisations can undertake, and the need for greater input from member organisations was evident from comments on the floor and from the feedback I received from our council member Maria Byrnes. She would welcome a much more proactive involvement of ASL and other organisations she represents, and has urged us to get in touch and liaise on a regular basis. She mentioned to me that some lobbying groups, such as the Humane Society and WWF have developed very effective mechanisms to pressure government. These include interactions with the press, letter-writing campaigns etc. While many of these groups are successful by campaigning on ‚emotive„ issues, scientific organisations should build their successes on presenting ‚factual„information.

Personally, I think FASTS represent an excellent opportunity to promote the interests and concerns of ASL regarding science and education policy and funding, and I would like to see a workshop dedicated on developing ASL ‚themes„ in this area, perhaps at the next conference. Another valuable comment I heard was that FASTS and SmP not only present opportunities for networking with MP„s, but also with other member organisations. If scientists as a community are to voice their concerns, it is important to learn from each other and to discover common threads and threats to our professions.

I did not have the opportunity to attend SmP myself, and did not get any feedback from other ASL members attending under various banners. It was unfortunate that ASL was not able to attend SmP under its own banner, and certainly this is an issue that needs addressing for next year„s SmP. In terms of better organising SmP the federation has indicated that much earlier registration would assist enormously, and is considering an earlier close of registration.

At the Council meeting, an agenda for the future was discussed. While SmP is heralded as a sound success, more needs to be done to achieve the objectives of FASTS. To that extend, everyone present was asked to list their highest priority for FASTS to work on, and how these objectives could be realised. It is impossible for me to mention all thirty-something objectives that were listed, and since our notes have been collected I believe FASTS will summarise these and inform its members very soon. I contributed to this by suggestion that FASTS perhaps consider developing a new tool; a report that sets out on a regular basis (annually?) to measure ‡State of Science and Education in Australia·, along the format developed for ‡State of the Environment·. This would allow FASTS to track and monitor government (and opposition) policy proposals for Science and Education over a longer time frame, in terms of:

- what has been realised
- effectiveness
- what resources have been spend
- what are the strengths and shortcomings of the policy
- comparisons with other countries

This would add arguments to promote long-term strategies and allow contextualising the setting of priorities. In a world where one week is a long time in politics, I believe there could be a real need for this÷

Frederick Bouckaert

New Initiative from FASTS

FASTS have initiated a new communication tool, SCIENCE NEWS, whose aim is to communicate more effectively about its activities to all of the members of the Societies which make up the whole constituency of FASTS. The full text of Science News November 2002 will be posted on the FASTS web site www.fasts.org.au

FASTS Media Releases will continue as previously. The newsletter is a document which might be produced 3 or 4 times a year, and is mainly directed to all the members of the FASTS organisations, as a set of short notes about key events and sources of information. It might evolve as we understand what people are interested in reading.

Thanks and regards

Mike Smith, [mike_rpgeo@optusnet.com.au]

EXTRACTS FROM FASTS NEWSLETTER " *Science News November 2002*"

SCIENCE MEETS PARLIAMENT NOVEMBER 2002

"Science meets Parliament" Day has once again proven to be a wonderful opportunity for 154 scientists and technologists to put the case for science to the 128 MPs who agreed to participate. Among the science and research issues currently being considered by Parliament are the Higher Education Review, priority research areas and triennium funding for Government-funded research agencies. These are matters where the science community has well-considered views. The event generated good radio and newspaper coverage.

Tuesday 12 Nov. The National Press Club lunch was eloquently addressed by Dr Keith Williams, CEO of Proteome Systems Ltd. His company has rapidly expanded to be one of the world forces in proteomics, and employs about 60 PhD graduates). Lunch was followed by a comprehensive Briefing Session for the scientists. Lord Robert May, President of the Royal Society, Robin Batterham, Chief Government Scientist, John Tierney from the Liberal Party, ALP Science spokesperson Kim Carr, Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate all contributed to an informative afternoon. Education Minister Brendan Nelson, and Science Minister Peter McGauran hosted a Cocktail Reception at Parliament House.

Wednesday 13 Nov. After breakfast at Old Parliament House, society representatives commenced the rounds of appointments with MPs which continued through-out the day. There was a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition Simon Crean, a Press Conference given by a panel of young scientists and morning tea hosted by the Science Minister Peter McGauran. A new feature this year was a special dinner in the dignified and atmospheric Members„ Dining Room at Old Parliament House, with guests drawn from participating scientists, from business and industry, and from selected Members of Parliament. The after-dinner speaker was Mr Bob Herbert, CEO of the Australian Industry Group. This dinner was arranged as an optional extra for participants wishing to build dialogue with MPs and industry.

Thursday 14 Nov. FASTS held the 2002 Annual General Meeting, Council Meeting and Board Meeting. The President-elect for 2003/2005 is Professor Snow Barlow, Head of the School of Agricultural and Food Systems, University of Melbourne. Assoc. Prof. John Rice was re-elected as Treasurer, and Assoc. Prof. John O„Connor was elected as Secretary.

FASTS WORKSHOPS FOR MEMBER SOCIETIES IN SIX CAPITAL CITIES

Australia's professional and learned societies are being squeezed by the pressures of modern life. FASTS is conducting a series of national workshops to help them meet the challenge. Societies play a valuable role in running conferences, circulating newsletters, and organising international activities and the professional development of their members. They are largely run by honorary office-bearers, who contribute thousands of hours and add millions of dollars of value to the economic, professional and cultural landscape. However they are finding it increasingly difficult to satisfy the demands of their professional and volunteer roles.

The workshops are designed to assist professional development and to deal with the matters of most concern to FASTS„ member societies. Workshop 1 is titled **Planning and Communication for Membership Benefit,** and Workshop 2 covers the nuts-and-bolts of managing a society, and is titled **Managing Associations for Membership Benefit.** Ten one-day workshops will be run in all major capital cities, with the series opening in Melbourne on October 8 and 9, followed by Sydney on October 22 and 23, followed by Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane and Canberra.

There is Government recognition of the valuable role being played by the professional and learned societies. Science Minister Peter McGauran has been interested and supportive, and the workshops are being funded through a grant from DEST.

The schedule of workshops and registration details are on the FASTS' web site: www.fasts.org.au

LAUNCH OF THE FASTS POLICY DOCUMENT FOR 2002, Parliament House, 23 September 2002

Professor Chris Fell, President of FASTS, said that some industries and some government portfolio areas have a clear sense of direction, but the country as a whole needs a national vision. "The national strategy hovers tantalisingly just beyond our reach," he said. "We lag behind advanced countries when it comes to investing in the ingredients of a modern economy."

‡Australia seems to be afflicted by short-termism,· Professor Fell said. "We need to escape from our national love affair with real estate, and commit to a long-term national plan with a future." He said in any international comparison, there are the advanced countries, and then there is Australia. "We drag at their coat-tails, always running eleventh or fifteenth·. "Science and technology drive our economy and solve our environmental problems, and yet we accept our international status as one of the also-rans. We don't accept the mediocre in sport - why do we accept it in science, where it really counts?" Professor Fell said the policy document puts forward a comprehensive set of policies aimed at driving Australia into the top third of OECD countries by 2012. The complete document is available as a pdf file from the FASTS web site: www.fasts.org.au

Science Minister Peter McGauran received a copy of the policy document at the launch. Mr McGauran said ‡Many of the issues that concern FASTS are similar to that of the Government, but more importantly there is a high level of agreement as to how we should address the challenges outlined in the document·.
He stated ‡This Government places great value on Australian science and the work of Australian scientists. It is important that science policy is supported by a whole-of-government approach, as evidenced by *Backing Australia's Ability.*

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF AUSTRALIA (5 DECEMBER 2002)

National Priorities: Towards a National Vision

Australia's Peak Council for scientists and technologists welcomed the national research priorities released today by the Prime Minister.

Vice-President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies, Dr David Denham said, "The national research priorities underline the importance of science in Australian society. For some time FASTS has been calling for a national vision to shape the research directions of this country. The national research priorities are an important first step towards this vision".

"Australia needs a national plan for science to make us internationally competitive, while safeguarding the heritage of this continent and enhancing the quality of life for our population," he said.

The national priorities for An Environmentally Sustainable Australia, Promoting and Maintaining Good Health, Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries, and Safeguarding Australia are consistent with the FASTS national research priorities submission to:

- Enable a sustainable environment
- Provide healthy lives and a long life expectancy for all Australians
- Overcome Australia's tyranny of distance
- Create an energy efficient Australia

Dr Denham said that "The implementation of the national priorities within budgetary constraints presents a significant challenge for government because all the research priorities identified are important and require commensurate funding."

"We particularly welcome the recognition of breakthrough science as a general priority, because it is well known that fundamental research produces unexpected benefits that often aren't realised until decades after the initial breakthrough. It is therefore important not to limit the horizons for basic research by being too prescriptive."

"However, we would expect that the national priorities will provide more direct guidance for planning by government research agencies which engage in applied and strategic research. FASTS looks forward to contributing to the discussion on implementing these research priorities", he said.

For interview, Dr Ken Baldwin, Chair, FASTS Policy (02) 6125 4702, (02) 62951562
Dr David Denham, Vice-President of FASTS (02) 6295 3014

CONFERENCE CAPERS
NZ LIM SOC 2002

The New Zealand Limnological Society held their 34th annual meeting at Shantytown, just outside Greymouth on the legendary wild West Coast of the South Island from 10-14th November, this year. The theme of the conference was ‚Go West 2002„ and the talks opened with several informative overviews of local aquatic issues along the West Coast. The backdrop to these talks was dramatic fi sudden heavy downpours of the famous NZ rain (recall ‡The Piano· ?) would cascade on the tin roof of the ‚Gold Nugget Hotel„ while outside, the plaintive call of the Shantytown steam engine would punctuate the proceedings. For me, the highlight of the morning session was Bob McDowall‚s Plenary speech that reviewed his research work in the late 1960s and early 1970s on whitebait migration in some of the South Island rivers. Bob gave fascinating insights into how research was done in those early years and paid tribute to the many fishers who shared their data, cups of tea, and whitebait with him and the other researchers. The other talks I attended covered many aspects of macroinvertebrates including some interesting data on the mate choice and sex life of a freshwater amphipod. Luckily the rain only fell for the first half of the first day so that the ‚Shantytown Goldrush„ that followed afternoon tea could be done under relatively dry conditions. This ‚goldrush„ entailed exploring Shantytown, a ‚Wild West„ replica town, gathering humourous clues and seeing how many answers could be stolen from other competitors. The goldrush faded (as gold rushes do) with free drinks in the bar, sustained by home-grown music in the Lim Soc Jam Session led by John ‚Hendrix„ Quinn and a haunting French balladist from DoC named Philippe Gerbeaux (who was also the conference‚s capable and charismatic MC).

The following day opened with our formal invitation (prepared by Belinda Robson) to the LimSoc members to join ASL at Warrnambool. Response was warm and when I asked for a show of hands, it seemed likely that 50-70 members would be able to join us next year. After that, I presented an invited talk on applying research findings to management of groundwater-surface water exchange zones, following up with some discussions with several Regional Council managers about local issues and approaches. The morning sessions included algae, native fisheries, and mining. I attended the mining session and was really impressed by the clarity of explanations of extracting ‚nasty coal„ the importance of local geology, and a couple of talks that elegantly blended science and mine management. After lunch, this led to a ‚mining workshop„ and sessions on introduced fish (those wicked trout fi not a carp to be seen!), forestry, and wetlands. Free drinks were then provided as a successful incentive to attract folks to the AGM. AGM debate was lively and spanned financial matters to discussion about whether LimSoc should provide ‚accreditation„ for its members to address a perceived need for quality control in providing advice to managers (decided ‚no„ largely due to neutral response to a questionnaire given to ‚end-users„). In true antipodean style, elections were brief while discussions were peppered with jokes and asides, many at the expense of the outgoing President Jon Harding. Neil Deans will replace Jon while Brian Sorrell continues as Treasurer/Secretary. After the AGM, I repaired to ‡The Banzai Pizzaria· with a gaggle of LimSocians for a chicken and apricot pizza, copious amounts of a fine Hawkes Bay cab sav, and a distinct feeling I would regret this in the morning.

Wed morning sessions were fisheries management and dairying. I went to the second session, surprised by the extraordinary upsurge in dairying interests in NZ due to largely economic reasons. This session included the talk that won ‚The Golden Boot„ NZ LimSoc‚s answer to ASL‚s door prize. Bob Wilcock, apparently a professional who has won the award before, was clearly new to Powerpoint and within his first slide, managed to bring up the menu several times by adroitly clicking on the right mouse button instead of the left. He then allowed the cursor to hover repeatedly over ‚End Show„ while the audience braced itself for Bob‚s presentation to end 30 seconds after it began. Bob then wavered over ‚Help„ and well-meaning members of the audience assisted Bob to distinguish his left from his right. Another few slides in, and Bob was prefacing each slide by muttering ‚Left button click„ and got through an excellent talk, satisfied that his prize was in the bag. After morning tea were sessions on riparian management and SoE reporting, the latter session enriched by two talks that explored the use of a Cultural Stream Health Measure based on Maori perceptions of stream health developed from a successful collaboration between iwi and ecologists. The afternoon was a series of field trips to various aquatic sites near Greymouth and ranged from adventurous kayaking experiences to the more sedate paddleboat ride that I enjoyed, chugging up the Mahinapua Creek and Lake admiring the Cape Pondweed that was apparently introduced along with catfish early last century. Then we went and saw an immense pit mine where a creek had been rerouted around the hole, and fi remarkably fi a population of rare short-jawed kokapu (a galaxiid fish) had persisted, apparently not noticing that their creek had been adjusted a little.

That night was the conference highlight fi the conference dinner. Although the food and band were excellent, it was the costumes that made the night. With a Wild West theme, the Greymouth Operatic House was overwhelmed by limnos looking for spurs, guns, hats and bandannas. Soon sold out, the rest of the LimSoc descended upon toy shops and ‚The Warehouse„ to buy toy guns, sheriff badges, and more. A bunch of bawdy women (some with deep voices reminiscent of a scene from ‚Life of Brian„) did a can-can. There was also a sailor (Alistair, your secret is safe with me), some fellow in long-johns, and quite a few Australian stockmen. Even Ned Kelly, with an authentic plastic flowerpot on his head was seeing trying to drink a beer without drowning himself while several extremely flamboyant members reminded me of a revival of the Village People. I„ll say one thing for those New Zealanders fi they sure know how to party!

The final day was a half session with talks on lakes, native fish, SoE monitoring and a workshop chaired by Robert Ward (Colorado State Uni) on the National River Water Quality Network seeking to revisit the 13-year program that has been running at 77 sites across NZ. There was wide-ranging discussion on variables, forms of data presentation, the complementary monitoring by regional councils, and the issues of data access and interpretation fi for details or to contribute your own thoughts, contact Mike Scarsbrook at NIWA in Hamilton.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the conference and was touched by the hospitality of the LimSoc who funded my visit and were so enthusiastic about the coming conference in Warrnambool. There is considerable interest in seeking some common themes for conference sessions fi suggestions included ‚concepts in aquatic ecology„ and ‚stream rehabilitation„ There was also much speculation about the conference dinner theme÷ The organizers of the Shantytown conference deserve special congratulations for their professionalism, patience, and thoroughness fi this meeting was perhaps the largest NZ LimSoc one ever at 191 participants, and by all accounts, one of the most enjoyable.

Andrew Boulton

BOOK REVIEW

Natural History of Kangaroo Island (2002). Second Edition

Editors: M. Davies, C.R. Twidale and M.J. Tyler.
Royal Society of South Australia

Kangaroo Island holds a special place in my heart. As a 10 year old child, some friends and I became lost walking back to a school camp, sparking a large search for a boy and his three friends. It was on that walk, along a rugged shoreline, that I discovered the natural world (and a few other of life's lessons after the parents and police had found us).

It is like no other place and I can't explain it other than that there are no rabbits, which are so prevalent elsewhere on the mainland of South Australia (and elsewhere in Australia) and have such a pervasive influence on vegetation and landscapes. Their absence is remarkable especially as their introduction was attempted at least once I was horrified to discover! This is, as you will discover from this book, perhaps just one reason for the uniqueness, as many others also exist.

I discovered the first edition of this book as I completed my undergraduate degree and it explained every aspect of this fascinating place in a way I was then well placed to appreciate. This book, a second edition, is comprehensive and completely updated, despite some of the authors being deceased or retired. Many chapters have been completely re-written.

It has a traditional arrangement of chapters, in the most part, from geology to mammals, climate to vegetation but it also has an extensive cross-linked index and an extensive references section. There were some standout chapters, from my viewpoint, such as the chapters on birds and vegetation which were arranged according to a habitat classification rather than lists of species and their habits. The 'history' chapter was written by Francois Perron (in 1816) and provides a unique perspective on the plants and animals of the Island in 1803. This might have been the first chapter and a model for the whole book in fact.

The photos are extensive (if only black and white) and the book well illustrated. It is clear that the book provides an excellent background for students trying to identify sites or topics for postgraduate research, nature lovers and more generally for researchers and consultants.

Lance Lloyd,
Lloyd Environmental

SEMINAR REPORT

Science of Environmental Water Requirements in South Australia Seminar – a great success!

When we think about ‚water for the environment„ most people tend to think ‚environmental flows„ in surface water systems. A recent seminar for which DWLBC was a key sponsor has put paid to that idea. Over 170 delegates at the *Science of Environmental Water Requirements in South Australia* Seminar on 24 September 2002 were perhaps amazed to hear how many of our water-dependent ecosystems are in fact dependent on groundwater!

DWLBC, catchment water management boards and the Hydrological Society of South Australia jointly sponsored the seminar. The seminar aimed to:

- review the state of scientific knowledge and methods currently being used in South Australia and nationally to assess environmental water requirements;
- share information and create links between practitioners, academics and managers; and
- set directions for the development of the science needed to improve strategies for assessment of environmental water requirements.

Claus Schonfeldt (Director Water Policy) opened the seminar and announced a research scholarship to fund postgraduate research into priority topics related to water for the environment. The Department for Environment and Heritage and SA Water contributed seed funding to the scholarship. Profits from the seminar will be added to this.

The seminar was an overwhelming success, with over 170 delegates from across State and Local government, catchment water management boards, community groups, academia, students and consultants. This response far exceeded initial expectations and reflects significant cross-sectoral interest in this issue. The standard of presentations was very high, reflecting the number of speakers of national and international standing. Feedback to the organising committee has been overwhelmingly positive with many people commenting on the high quality of the presentations and the timeliness and relevance of the information presented.

Paul McEvoy

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

OVERSEAS

2002

The 7th International Conference on Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from 4 to 7 December. "Science Communication in a Diverse World" is the theme, exploring innovative approaches in the public communication of science and technology. Science communication within different cultures and multi-cultural societies will be a central theme. See web page for further information: www.fest.org.za/pcst.html

2003 – International Year of Freshwater

The 2nd Large Rivers Symposium is to be held in Phnom Penh, Kingdom of Cambodia from 11 to 14 February. The web site is at: lars2.org

3rd World Water Forum is to be held at The Kyoto International Conference Hall, Kyoto, Japan from 16 to 23 March. See: http://www.worldwaterforum.org/eng/index.html

Organic Phosphorus 2003. 13 to 18 July to be held at Mont Verita, Ascona, Switzerland. See the Workshop website http://www.nwisrl.ars.usda.gov/OrganicP2003/ for details on how to register. Further information from Dr Darren Baldwin (Darren.Baldwin@ csiro.au).

Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences, to be held from 13 to 18 July at the University of Edinburgh, UK. Web address: http://www.sefs.info/

Fourth International Symposium on Phosphate in Sediments. Organised by the Asociaci F3n Espa F1ola de Limnolog EDa the University of Sevilla, together with the University of Granada. Sediments are known as important sites for aquatic nutrient recycling, but not all processes are as yet fully understood, neither qualitatively, nor quantitatively. This meeting will take place in Sevilla (Spain) from 9 to 12 September. If you are interested inform Laura Serrano (serrano@ us.es) or Han Golterman (email: golterman@ wanadoo.fr < mailto:golterman@ wanadoo.fr>)

The 17th Biennial Conference of the Estuarine Research Federation (ERF) will be held 14 to 18 September, at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. The conference„s theme is Estuaries on the Edge: Convergence of Ocean, Land, and Culture. For more information about ERF, please contact Joy Bartholomew at jbarth@ erf.org or visit their web site: www.erf.org

International Conference on Water-Saving Agriculture and Sustainable Use of Water and Land Resources, to be held in Yangling, Shaanix, P.R. China from 26 to 29 October. Further information from the Conference Secretariat, Prof. Kang Shaozhong, kang62@ public.xa.sn.cn

2004

29th International Association of Theoretical and Applied Limnology 8 to 14 August. (SIL): Lahti, Finland. Website: sil2004@ latkk.helsinki.fi

7th **INTECOL International Wetlands Conference** at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, July 2004. This Conference will be organized under the auspices of the International Association of Ecology (INTECOL) under the title "Wetland Science and Water Resources Management". Please visit the web site and bookmark it: <http://www.bio.uu.nl/INTECOL> www.bio.uu.nl/INTECOL

AUSTRALIAN

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Through the Good Times and the Bad: Who Protects Our Rivers? is a free Forum organized by Environment Victoria and the Environment Defenders Office, to be held at Elisabeth Murdoch Building Lecture Theatre A, University of Melbourne on 6 December from 9.30am - 5.00pm. Further information from Elizabeth Mellick, Environment Defenders Office phone: 03 9328 4811, email: adminvic@ edo.org.au

2003 – International Year of Freshwater

Worldwide Dragonfly Association (WDA) 3rd International Symposium of Odonatology, to be held at La Trobe University Beechworth, Victoria, from 7 to 13 January. For further information contact the Symposium Convenor: John Hawking (John.Hawking@ csiro.au) or see the preliminary notice on the web page at: http://powell.colgate.edu/wda/Australia/Home_page.htm

Australian Water Summit, ‡Developing integrated policy initiatives for property rights, water trading, pricing and sustainable natural resource management·, to be held at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Darling Harbour, Sydney from 26-28 February. Book on-line at www.iir.com.au/resources

Australian Water Association (AWA) 20th Ozwater Convention & Exhibition *Innovations in Water.* To be held at the Burswood Resort, Perth, Western Australia, from 6 to 10 April. For further information email quitz@ bigpond.com.au (Quitz Event Management), or phone (02) 9410 1302.

The Ninth International Conference on River Research and Applications - is being organised and sponsored by the CRCFE. The conference will be held 6 to 11 July in Albury, NSW. See http://www.conlog.com.au/NISORS/ for further information.

MODSIM 2003, The Biennial Congress of the Modelling and Simulation Society of Australia and New Zealand ‡Integrative Modelling of Biophysical, Social, and Economic Systems for Resource Management Solutions·, to be held from 14 to 17 July at Jupiter's Hotel and Casino, Townsville.

2003 National Conference of the United Nations Association of Australia will be held over two-days in Perth (WA) on 26 and 27 September. The theme of the conference is Fresh Water: *We'll all drink to that!,* with a focus to highlight the importance of establishing and maintaining fresh water resources.

The **Third Victorian Flood Management Conference** will be held in Horsham, Victoria, on the 8 to 10 October. See: www.vicfloodconference.com.au

A Memorial Symposium and Field Trip in Honour of Bill Williams fi is being organized by the University of Adelaide (to arrive in Warrnambool for the Joint ASL/NZLS meeting) from 28 to 30 November. For more information contact Mike Geddes on mike.geddes@ adelaide.edu.au

Joint 42nd Annual Australian Society for Limnology Congress and The New Zealand Limnological Society, to be held in Warrnambool, Victoria from 1 to 5 December. Further information from Belinda Robson (brobson@deakin.edu.au), Phone (03) 5563 3330 or Fax (03) 5563 3462.

Symposium on Urbanisation and Stream Ecology, to be held in Melbourne on 8 and 9 December. Further information from Chris Walsh (Chris.Walsh@sci.monash.edu.au), Phone (03) 9905 4091 or Fax (03) 9905 4196.

ASL VOLUNTEERS

The following members have volunteered to speak as experts on behalf of the ASL.

If you wish to be included on the list or amend your contact details, please contact:

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Fill out the form below and send onto the Treasurer/Membership Officer (address below), or alternatively go to the ASL website (http://www.asl.org.au/asl_member.htm), follow the link to 'Membership application via the web'. Fill in the details on the form, including credit card details, and submit. ASL is not registered for GST, therefore ASL does not charge GST.

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If you are a member of the ASL and want to receive your newsletter electronically, then please fill in the form below. Members who do not want to receive an electronic version, and would rather still receive the paper version will continue to do so, but you are encouraged to also fill in and send the form below (we do not have plans to phase out the paper version).

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